METRO / A20
Raids on shabu warehouses in Rizal, Manila yield over P400 million worth of drugs

BUSINESS / B1
Gov't revises profit-sharing plan for mining

ACROSS / A17
Bossi kin ask gov't not to use force

WORLD / A21
High-tech industries want more US visas for skilled workers

ENTERTAINMENT / D1
Gawad Kalinga movie makes P200M in the US

Gov't radio reporter shot dead in Tawi-Tawi

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY – TWO UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANTS on motorcycles shot dead a radio broadcaster in front of his residence in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, on Saturday morning, police said.

CONTINUED A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, June 24, 2007 | 44 | Vol. 22 | No. 198

Cell phones more precious than wedding rings–Nokia

By Jocelyn R. Uy

COMBATIVE MODE. Controversial election official Lintang H. Bedol answers questions during an exclusive interview with the Inquirer and GMA 7 at his home in Cotabato City on Monday.

Bedol challenges Comelec: Sue me

Maguindanao poll official denies losing CoCs

By Nikko Dizon

COTABATO CITY—HE MAY BE ARMED TO THE teeth but Lintang Bedol, the man at the center of a vote fraud scandal in Maguindanao, would rather face his accusers in court.

Inviting us to his mansion, the provincial election supervisor of Maguindanao surrender challenged his detractors—and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to indict him for the charges spread lately.

"Those who are saying that there was cheating in Maguindanao, file a case against me to exercise the vote day. They should file a case now and I will answer their accusations," Bedol said unabashedly in Filipino.

Bedol even welcomed a threat the Comelec could charge him with sedition in the custody of the assistant, after he exposed that the first copies of the municipal certificates of canvass (CoCs), or vote tallies, were stolen from his office in the heavily guarded provincial capitol in Shariff Aguak on May 29.

"That's OK if the Comelec would file charges against me. The accused should be the custodian of these documents. And that wasn't me," Bedol said. "It's up to them (Comelec) to discover who that person was."

Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said in Manila that Task Force Maguindanao, which looked into the allegations of poll irregularities in the province, had recommended the sacking of Bedol if true his post as provincial election officer. (See related story on this page).

A three-day patrol gleaned on Bedol's statement as he spoke during an interview on Sunday night on the eve of the crucial reconciliation of Maguindanao voters that could decide who between rapidmo "Toks" Pimentel III of the Nacionalista Opposition

BEDOL, A2

Quake rocks special count; Zubiri ahead

By Nikko Dizon and Jeyzon Aving

SHARIF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—SHERIFF ing under opposition protests and demands that the proceedings be declared illegal, a special provincial board of canvassers yesterday began tabulating votes in the senatorial election in Maguindanao elections that could decide who would win the 12th and last Senate slot.

By the time the proceedings adjourned at 5:30 p.m.—after 1 mild earthquake hit the town at around noon—the special board had only canvassed the senatorial and party-list results from the municipal certificates of canvass (CoCs) of Shariff Aguak and Buluan.

Results from the 13 precincts tabulated by the board showed Ilonn Ecleo (TU) candidate Ann Miguel Zubiri with 45,631 votes and his rival, Senate Opposition (SO) candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, with 44,039 votes.

QUAKE A4

More jobs today in Subic and Clark

IN THE KNOW

Gov't warned people of economic fallout, security threats

By Tarra Quismundo
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE—Two of the most strategic defense posts of the United States, which the Philippine government turned into economic zones beginning in 1992, are now among the country's biggest job creators, doubling or tripling the employment levels during the heyday of the American bases.

The former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and Subic Naval Base in Zambales—now the Clark Freeport and Subic Bay Freeport, respectively—employ a total of 117,725 workers.

Clark had 50,104 workers last month, according to records of Clark Development Corp. (CDC). Subic had 67,599 workers as of April, according to Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

The number of jobs at Clark is more than double the 22,600 workers listed by the US Air Force up until the pullout of its troops in 1991, according to CDC president Levy Laza.

Over at Subic, the employment figure is more than thrice the 20,000 workers there until the Second Fleet withdrew in 1992.

MORE, A4

3 generals urged to come out in the open

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christine F. Esguerra

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY challenged three generals to come out in the open with their accusation linking some top officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to political killings.

"If there is anyone who has something against any of our officers and men, he has to do his case in the proper court and not in the court of public opinion," the Philippine Army said in a statement.

In separate interviews, three AFP generals had told the Inquirer on the condition of anonymity about a 2005 military conference that discussed the Armed Forces' course of action against suspected communist insurgents.

The third general, who said he was present at the meeting, said he'd like that two other generals did not deny the accusation in the killing of political activists in the presence of at least 100 soldiers, including the support staff of each division and battalion.

GENERALS, A10

GLORIA IN SINGAPORE. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, with Singapore President S.R. Nathan walking behind her, is given a salute as honors during the welcome ceremony at the Istana, the presidential palace, in Singapore on Monday. Ms. Arroyo, who is in the city-state on a state visit, delivered the opening address at the 2007 World Economic Forum on East Asia on Sunday.

NBI sees foul play in loss of 'broadband network' papers

By Michael Lim Ubac and Tina G. Santos

THERE IS MORE TO THE SEIZURE OF "sensitive" documents on the $329.5-million deal between the Arroyo administration and China to set up a broadband network for all Philippine government offices than meets the eye, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

The NBI has found foul play and conspiracy involving the Philippines' commercial rival but had to submit some who were indicated with the original copy of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo during her visit to Hainan province in China on April 11.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring confirmed reports that the missing documents were "stolen" and not "accidentally lost" as claimed by Emmanuel Rico, Bro Ang, commercial attaché of the Philippine Consulate in Guangzhou, Guangdong, and Miss Liu, a Chinese national whose real name is Liu Zhen Dong and who works as trade assistant and interpreter.

The deal involves primarily the supply of equipment and services for the national broadband network (a high-speed Internet system) between the Arroyo administration, through the Department of Transportation and Communications, and ZTE Corp., a Chinese company which won the project of the DOTC and the Commission on Information and Communications

NBI, A6

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Isolated showers, thunderstorms and rainshowers mostly cloudy, hazy with scattered thunderstorms. The rest of the country: partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country: partly cloudy with a chance of rainshowers.

Palace: Up to House to probe CA

By Jaime Laboy, Jaco Bueno and Dona Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG DOESN'T WANT TO GET involved in the investigation of the reported entrenchment rocket of some members of the powerful Commission on Appointments (CA).

"I don't think the President should be dragged into this," Deputy Executive Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters yesterday.

He said the House of Representatives, through its ethics committee, should be the one to look into the charges leveled by outgoing Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation chair Carlos Celdran that a CA cabal he called the "Big Five" executed up to P5 million from government officials who wanted their appointments cleared.

But administration-allied Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who revealed that she herself had been entrenched by CA members here, doubted any investigation into the alleged CA extortion activity would make any headway.

She said Malacañang appointees (also fell victim to the extortion scam) would be reluctant to speak out.

"Generally, no commissioner will incriminate himself by testifying that he obtained confirmation by giving a bribe, an appointment or a contract to a CA member," said Santiago, chair of the committee on foreign relations of the Commission on Appointments.

"Furthermore, it would be the nominee's word against that of the solons, and therefore all things being equal, the presumption of innocence will be sustained," she added.

Santiago said she was bothered by CA members who also step up for confirmation as immigration commissioner during the Aquino administration.

She said the vote reportedly bypassed because she refused to accommodate the "illegal requests" of some CA members.

"I was isolated and ostracized during the sessions and all the corrupt employees in the immigration bureau had a field day changing until at last, with the nefarious consequences of the appointment of the corrupt members and congressmen who seemed to take me down a peg or two... It's not a hunch anymore," she said.

Santiago suggested instead that the bicameral body revoke the controversial provision that grants veto power to each member of the CA.

Under Section 16 of the CA rules, any member can override the vote of the commission and move to suspend the confirmation of any Malacañang appointee. This veto power cannot be debated on but is a mere notation of our CA members, a nominee is automatically bypassed.

"The exception rule is what can prevent a CA member to extort bribes, government appointments or public works contracts in exchange for confirmations," said Santiago.

She also suggested that the CA should be subject to no-notice examinations foreseen a CA member has said a nominee during the confirmation process.

"The CA by itself can expose further its dysfunctional rules to make it a laughingstock. Example: a nominee is to communicate directly or indirectly outside of the cubicle committee hearings. That way, the opportunities for extortion would be minimized," she said.

Opposition detainee-solon Rodolfo Valencia's suggestions were similar to those made by Santiago.

He said that during his stint as a CA member, the body reminded its aides to bar any member from attending Session 20 (veto power). But Lacson said there were still a lot of "gray areas" that needed to be clarified to prevent extortion and bribery.

Meanwhile, Bunye said Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had directed members of Cabinet to refrain to solicit their careers in the CA as soon as possible.

Bunye, volunteering his own experience, said he had not been asked by any CA member for any consideration.

Bunye, confirmed by the CA after just one hearing, was one of the lucky Cabinet members who passed the CA scrutiny. With a report from Cet Calimbahan Jr. and Sean-ar B. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Read her lips: No new taxes

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY RESisted President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent pronouncement that she would not impose new taxes during the remainder of her term.

"The President said no new taxes. It's very clear that we could do with whatever comes our way. It's a matter of implementing a combination of measures, both the tax measures and the non-tax measures for us to be able to hit our deficit targets," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye at a press conference.

The directive comes the unpopular proposal to impose new tax measures to help reduce the country's budget deficit.

"This is central by what the President said. So the general opposition is, no no no next was taken into consideration. But right now we're not considering any other tax, not excise tax or income," Bunye said.

He said Mr. Arroyo's pronouncement, made last week in the presence of economic managers, should be a clear signal to the administration-dominated House of Representatives, which even threatened to impeach Arroyo for her supposed violation of her campaign promise not to increase taxes during the remainder of her term.

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Bunye said the President "very clearly said that the tax reform measures that we've passed would suffice for the time being" in meeting the deficit target for this year, which is P70 billion.

The national government has made a commitment to balance its budget—which has been in a deficit since the Asian currency crisis of 1997—by 2008.

Last year, the government raised the value-added tax (VAT) rate to 12 percent from 10 percent and imposed excise tax on cigarettes to stabilize its finances.

It is also aiming to rationalize fiscal incentives because the current system is more a heavy drain on revenue collection.

Confident of hitting target

"We're confident that we will meet the deficit target with a combination of tax measures—the ones that we have already passed and the enhancement measures, meaning, for example, the revenue effort of privatization," said Bunye.

A number of government corporations are set to be privatized within the year.

The Finance department said that the government would generate P1 billion in additional taxes annually by improving the expanded value-added tax (e-VAT) revenues from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and South Luzon expressway.

Rationalization

Bunye said Malacañang would also pursue the rationalization of certain incentives enjoyed by officials and employees of certain government departments and agencies.

"Even with the removal of these perks, we should not lose our competitiveness," he said.

Even without new taxes, the economic team is confident it can meet this deficit target for 2006, Bunye said.

The rationalization of fiscal incentives, which has been proposed as early as 1994, entails the lifting of redundant tax-and duty-free privileges granted to local agencies.

On May 7, the finance department pushed for the passage in Congress of three more tax bills, which are expected to bring in an additional P16 billion in revenues a year. With reports from Michelle I. Zurbo

GMA: RP a First World nation in 20 years

By Dexter L. Lucio

DAVAO CITY—THE PHILIPPINES IS SET to become a fully developed nation—economically and politically—in two decades or less given the declaration of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo to its reform programs.

The President set out this ambitious target yesterday as she invited Singaporean businessmen, as well as Filipino businessmen based in the island state, to invest in the Philippines' growth story.

"We would like to be like Singapore someday maybe in 20 years—a First World country," Mr. Arroyo said in her speech delivered at the Pulberose Hotel before the Philippine-Singapore Business Council.

More importantly, the President vowed to replicate the Singaporean government's global reputation of being one of the least corrupt in the world, and now likes to attract more investments.

"Here is something else that Singapore is famous for and that is its high standard of transparency in government," she said. "This is another thing we want to emulate."

The President's pitch on good governance, ranging the chronic concerns of foreign businessmen about the rampant practices of Philippine government institutions, especially those involved in large infrastructure projects.

At the same time, Mr. Arroyo vowed to continue the businessmen that her administration had achieved significant progress that had not been publicized in the media.

She pointed to the government's macroeconomic reforms, Team Energy—the home-grown energy firm she said "believes that perception about the reality" of the progress in the Philippines in the fight to better governance.

"The fact is that we have indeed taken a strong and steady effort to curb graft and corruption through citizens' service, administrative reforms and prosecution reform," she said.

Special attention is being given to the revenue agencies like the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BoC) that provided the government sources the bulk of its income. Both agencies are routinely dealt as corruption and inefficiency in collecting graft and inefficiency.

President Arroyo vowed to reassure the Singaporean businessmen of a friendly operating environment. She would then decide on moves more in the country.

"I don't rather to focused on the revenue agencies that have improved their performance in recent years, agencies that account the bulk of the revenue for the government, and local governments," she said.

"We take this issue seriously."

DENR all for construction of spa on Taal volcano

By Rob Cuaresma

THOSE AIMING TO BE NO STUMBLING: The construction of a P72-million health spa along Taal volcano's crater, amid simmering, gaseous fissures in bustling valley and the appeal it would attract environmentalists protested in putting up businesses "in restricted areas" in the country.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said Taal volcano as a protected area "does not prohibit the use for recreation" and cited the hotel resorts in Mount Pinatubo. He said the hotel resorts in Mount Pinatubo, especially those erected in large infrastructure projects.

Reyes said the President "very clearly said that the tax reform measures that we've passed would suffice for the time being" in meeting the deficit target for this year, which is P70 billion.

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'Enough,' gov't lawyers say of Erap request

GOVERNMENT LAWYERS TESTERDAY opposed ousted President Joseph Estrada's motion asking the Sandiganbayan Special Division to allow him to attend the confirmation of Manila Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim on June 30.

The prosecution in the six-year-old plunder case argued that Estrada's presence at the June 30 rites in the Liwasang Bonifacio may only fan division among the residents of Manila.

Estrada had endorsed Lim against administration candidate Lito Atienza, an administration stalwart.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and Deputy Special Prosecutor Robert Kallos said Estrada had been released out of his detention cabaret in Tanay two years before. Public funds were used and police were mobilized every time he was allowed out on pass, they added.

"He has practically abused the leniency and magnanimity of the government by asking for opportunities or requests to attend gatherings or social events which other detainees or inmates could not avail of," stated the prosecution.

The prosecution said "enough is enough" when it comes to political allies.

The antiquill court allowed Estrada to attend the ornamental celebration of Lim June on March 27 to receive an award. He was also permitted to visit with his mother, Mary Ejercito, on her 102nd birthday in May.

Two weeks ago, he was also allowed to attend the wedding of his son, Jose Jinsh Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito.

Jocelyn R. Ty

Justice lawyers miffed Honasan was cleared

By Lala B. Salamanca

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROSECUTORS said yesterday they disagreed with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's decision clearing Senator-elect Gregorio Honasan of coup d'etat charges in connection with the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon, who headed the five-member panel handling the case, said Honasan should have been charged, although he also acknowledged that it was within Gonzalez's power to reverse their findings.

"We were caught by surprise in the sense that we did not expect it to come out that soon. Second, we were surprised by (the) reasons (he) cited," Fadullon said. He added that he thought the resolution would have been controlled but not reversed.

In his resolution issued in August, the panel had said the evidence and testimonies against Honasan showed that he had participated in planning the Oakwood hotel takeover and was the "driving force" behind the mutiny, which led to injuries of 10 persons and forced the government to withdraw the forces it had sent through Love and Honasan.

But acting on Honasan's appeal, Gonzalez last week ordered prosecutors to withdraw the charges against the rebel officer-turned-senator, saying Honasan may have been the inspiration behind the Oakwood takeover but there was no evidence to pin him down as the leader.

Gonzalez's decision had come several weeks after Honasan, released on bail by a Makati court, met with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Malacañang denied they had cut a deal.

Criminal liability

Disappointed, Fadullon said the panel believed Honasan had a criminal liability.

"I would maintain our earlier finding that Mr. Honasan was a leader of the coup. If we were to be subjective to refer it again, (that would) tell for one finding. But again, like I said, it's already moot and academic with the findings of the secretary so I don't think I should say anything more," he said.

He said the prosecution's thesis was that the Oakwood siege was planned months in advance and was not a spontaneous event.

The disgruntled young officers who seized the posh Makati hotel in July 2003 denounced the President and the military brass for corruption and mishandling the war in Mindanao, among other things, before giving up 18 hours later.

Fadullon said Gonzalez did not speak to him before clearing Honasan, but met with him afterward. He declined to disclose what they talked about.

Asked if he, the panel was thinking of resigning following the reversal of its recommendation, Fadullon said it had not reached a decision.

Aside from Fadullon, the other members of the panel were State Prosecutors Jovencito Zuño, Normal Bocobo Baldosano and Irwin Marquez, and Prosecuting Attorney Antonio Felipe.

Undecided on resigning

"We has not yet decided on that as our reason for our personal stand on the issue got the better of us. We are going to meet because with or without Senator Honasan, there is still a case to prosecute," Fadullon said.

Fadullon also pointed out the coup d'etat case should not use the clearance of Honasan's case as a stepping-up of the prosecution's case against Trillanes, according to Fadullon.

He said the other accused, like Senator Trillanes IV—currently newly elected senator—were directly involved in the siege of the Oakwood hotel.

De Venecia using House website in leadership fight, solon charges

By Christine V. Bigsten's

A LAWMAKER FROM Cebu today accused Speaker Jose de Venecia of using the House of Representatives' official website to silence Cebu Rep. Pablo John Garcia, the rival for the speaker's post in the incoming 14th Congress.

Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay said that Garcia's picture—which was removed from the website—was "maligned" after it's accused Garcia, while a final judgment has not been passed on the case.

Pichay also said that Garcia's picture was removed without authority from the website.

Pichay described De Venecia's "misuse" of the official website as "immoral and indefensible act is unforgiveable" in using government resources for a media campaign in support of (the) personal ambitions."

Pichay, who's also a supporter of Garcia's bid for speakership, said that Garcia's picture was removed without authority from the website.

Pichay described De Venecia's "misuse" of the official website as "immoral and indefensible act is unforgiveable" in using government resources for a media campaign in support of (the) personal ambitions."

Out of the bag

"The cat is now out of the bag that House website was used by Speaker De Venecia," Solis said in a statement.

He cited a June 22 release in which De Venecia's office lifted House-specified Garcia as "the face of democracy, not reform."

Speaking in behalf of the Speaker was Rep. Rhoderick Dominguez of Negros.

The news release quoted Ramon Rep. Jesse Cua as advising Garcia, "Withdraw from the speakership race or get ready for a repeat of the situation of a statesman." This was re-related to the incidents at least four years since Friday.

Solis said another release described Garcia and his family as a "Talibanic dynasty." It was the same statement issued by De Venecia himself when he lost back at Garcia in their send was over the speakership.

A photo release in the same release also did not as well such as his.

The photo, which showed at least five congressmen supposedly declaring their support for De Venecia.

Solid ground

The caption read: "Speaker Jose de Venecia led for a record 208+ votes as House leader stands on solid ground. A declaration of support for him has been signed by 208 House members, some of whom called on him personally at his Makati residence."

In the photo were Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, Rep. Cecilia Lazo, Rep. Arthur Defensor, Rep. Henry Lim Bryan Teves and Deputy Speaker Raul Del Mar also of Cebu.

The De Venecia camp yesterday expressed confidence that it will win the Speaker's post.

"Garcia is the face of dynasty not reform."

"With all due respect, Garcia does not and will not be the leader and spokesman for reform in the House," it quoted Bonvgan as saying.

Five successive legislators, meanwhile, said on Monday had endorsing was the issue in the speakership race, and no one had defected leadership issues overnight than De Venecia who had put his position on the line to get vital legislation passed by the chamber.

Easier road

In a joint statement, the five—Lanao Silvestre, Bukidnon Rep. Constantino Carlos Uy Lanao, Bataan Rep. Enrique Garcia-Dans and Rep.-elect Rachel Arenas—said:

"Speaker De Venecia has never known the easier road, which was to be popular. He should be commended for his political courage and statesmanship with the face of criticism."

"Political ambition and hardly dynasty alone can not propel any politician to the position of Speaker," they said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 26, 2007
12th Week in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 19:19-21
Matthew 7:6, 12-14

Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs or throw your pearls to the pigs, they might trample on them and turn and tear you to pieces.

"So, do to others whatever you would they should do to you—this is in fact the Law and the Prophets.

"Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many take it. How narrow is the gate that leads to life and how few there are who find it."

Commentary

Advent and Lent have acquired too much for the kind of penitential practices that have clearly outrun and traditionally associated. In this, split up and more quiet to clear that can live in harmony. The Lectionary almost seems to have lost sight of this fact. Sometimes Advent leaves us adrift in the cold in the dark, reminded of the fact that it is the lord's judgment time to split.

We continue in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which seems to be a literal draft. We live in a world and with a God where people are discouraged of our beliefs and practices, our call to the law, to care for the poor, to love our enemies, and to forgive. Therefore, we must be as resolute about the depth of our understanding and value who do not appreciate it understand it. There is violence and we must be careful as we go forward in our practice that we do not get caught up in an angry spirit of self-righteousness and love. But we are encouraged to go together through the narrow gate. How do we live with each other in the groups that we belong to?

Opinion Publications Inc., 8 Bonanza St., EP 10 Bldg., Greenhills Commercial Center, 1500 San Juan City, Metro Manila, Tel. 721-7800, Fax. 721-7633, E-mail: info@opinion.ph, Website: http://www.opinion.ph, Publication of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, http://www.inquirer.net, http://www.inquirer.com.ph, Publication of the Philippines

E. P. Mercado, 59

EDGARDO P. MERCADO OF QUEZON CITY died on June 24 of cancer. He was 59.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, children Romeo and Geraldine, brothers Elmo, Edilberto and Enrique, and sisters Evangeline Bravo and Edna Constantino.

His remains lie in his Domingo Church in Quezon City. Interment will be on June 27 at Hardscaping Filipino after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Correction

IN THE JUNE 25 issue, a business story published on Page B-9—"PIDA brings in Denmark, north Pfahl from SIC"—misclabeled the agency that funded the new biotechnology center. It was funded by the US Department of Agriculture under the Food for Progress program, and implemented by Land O'Lakes Phil. in collaboration with the National Dairy Authority. It was not jointly funded by the US Agency for International Development and the National Dairy Production Board Corporation.

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Inquirer, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PIA Building, 5th Floor, 109 Yakal St., cor. Mercedes Drive, Makati City, fax line 897-07-07/08, 896-6214, e-mail to: jlumbao@inquirer.com.ph.

Requests should include the full name of author or objects to be corrected, date and page number of publication, e-mail address, mailing address and telephone number. Call 897-01-01 or 897-07-07/08, fax line 896-6214 for more information. The phone number is 897-8800 local 502.

WHO: RP lucky to be bird flu-free but must prepare

By Edwin C. Tadeo, Jr.

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines is "lucky" to have remained bird flu-free but this should not be a reason not to be complacent.

Saying the risk of an avian flu pandemic remained high, Takeshi Kasai, regional adviser of the World Health Organization Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response, said this should instead be an opportunity for the country to "review and improve."

Kasai warned that in case of a pandemic, countries could not restrict movement and because their neighbors would be busy attending to their own problems.

Warning interest

The WHO warned against value seemed to be wearing interest and concern over the dreaded H5N1 bird flu virus.

The virus flu has killed 116 persons of 312 who died from infected by poultry, often in humid pockets the flu could mutate into a strain that could be easily passed between humans.

The WHO has recorded what is believed to be "limited human to human transmission" of the deadly bird flu strain in Thailand and the disease. Two men observed in secondary contacts by a family member who got the H5N1 strain after having exposed to infected poultry.

Rare

"Limited human-to-human transmission of H5N1 has occurred after very close, prolonged contact with a severely ill case, but (it) is very rare. (There is yet) no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 virus," the WHO said in a report.

Kasai said countries could stockpile a stockpile of Tamiflu and antibiotics, which could treat the flu. The problem is health experts could not totally predict when strain of the virus would trigger a pandemic. The WHO has at least four strains of the H5N1 virus, each with different reactions to available medicine.

Vaccine

Kasai said drug manufacturers had come up with a "pre-pandemic vaccine" but not in huge doses. These are also not yet commercially available because each body knows the strain virus reacts to right.

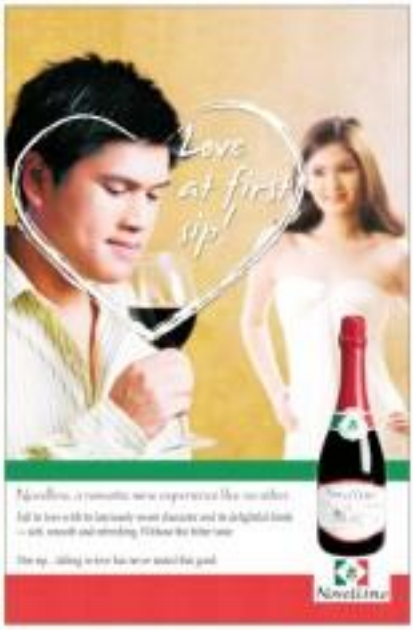
He said the availability vaccine would even turn out to be useless if a new strain develops and causes the pandemic.

Asian flu has a relatively slower rate of transmission, but once it is passed on to humans, the rate would speed up, he said.

"Developing countries can only stop producing vaccines only after identifying the responsible strains so we better prepare more for possible health interruption rather than rely heavily on the vaccine," Kasai said.

He said it would probably take three to four months for a new vaccine to be formulated after the responsible strain is known.

Municipalities losing a thereafter workshop for journalists organized by the DENR have last week. The workshop aimed to improve communication between DENR officials and the media, as well as equip journalists with the information to better cover environmental issues.



Bedol challenges Comelec: Sue me

From page A1

JOAS and Juan Miguel Zubiri of Team Unity (TU) would sit in the Senate on June 30.

Bedol, the Zamboanga City boss-lawyer, as well as to neighboring Maguindanao, the former senatorin-law of ousting Bedol said.

But that he has anything to fear, he said.

A small armory

By his own admission, Bedol's personal armory includes a Magnum .357, four pistols and some 20 baby grenades. He said he used to have an Uzi, but he gave it to his brother.

His collection of firearms, Bedol said, was nothing compared to those of others—mostly politicians—busy next to the neighboring provinces who own thousands of firearms to protect themselves.

"To be a politician here you have to have guns, goons and gold," Bedol said.

He said he had never used his guns to shoot anyone, nor even to kill chickens.

"Mayroon(what) akong uzi. (I am a loving person)," he laughed.

In the rain, in the dark

Bedol spoke to the Inquirer and to UNTV 7 reporter Jiggy Manicad by text than sat here in a gazebo as rain poured in the Bedol lair, spanning a series of low home, a part of which his wife had converted into a mini-wish home years ago.

It was the eve of the special canvassing of the MOAs from Maguindanao's 22 towns which the Comelec had ordered after it set aside the initial canvass/tabulation supervised by Bedol which showed TU senatorial candidates winning 12-0.

To reach Bedol, the Inquirer and Manicad had to drive from Isabela City to Cotabato City traversing roads that almost vanished in the dark because of the heavy rains.

At a point, the road could be seen only with lightning struck so when the group hit a stretch of road with lampposts.

Numerous military and police checkpoints stood along the way.

Garci's inner circle

A contract man waited with a short firearm waited in front of a bank in Cotabato. He was armed with a short firearm, too.

The contract left the bank soon and UNTV 7 to a small community where the roads grew narrower and narrower until the convoy reached a gate that led to a compound—where Bedol was waiting.

Here Bedol met the men who had been the source of outsized attention for weeks—the men who chaired the original power said heard of rumors that cash, mixed a vote tally showing a TU shutout win as well as zero votes for 19 candidates, which the Comelec said was "statistically improbable."

How democracy works

Bedol denied he had gone into hiding, even as he admitted that being tagged as a member of the supposed inner circle of disgraced former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was among the likely reasons everyone had been running down hard on him.

Bedol, who has been with the Comelec for 13 years, said he had accepted the accusations heaped at him because "to me, that's how democracy works."

But it was unfair, he said, to make sweeping allegations that Comelec officials like him were corrupt.

"It is not difficult for us to do something that is wrong. It is easy for us to do what is right," he said in Filipino.

However, Bedol said he was afraid to avoid the "mistakes" he and those mentioned in the controversial "Garci tapes" committed in trying to defend themselves during a Senate investigation.

The "Garci tapes" referred to supposed wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Garcillano set up during the results of the 2004 presidential election. Bush Mr. Arroyo and top officials denied they discussed it.

"If there was one mistake we did, we gave out too many interviews and too much time on commercials during the election," Bedol said.

Learning from mistake

This time, Bedol stressed, he wanted changes to be lifted against him in court before he would answer any allegation made against him.

"I never the politicians who said I should be jailed should file a case against me if they really were that," Bedol said.

Even the Comelec's Task Force Maguindanao should file charges against him first before he answers the report which task force chair, Commissioner Nieves, has been

LISTENING H. Bedol answers during an interview with Inquirer and GMA 7 reporters at his house in Cotabato City on Monday. (Jerome Aning)

waiting for the past two weeks, he said.

"It was what my lawyers told me. I haven't been charged with anything yet. Why should I submit an answer?" said Bedol, a lawyer himself.

"I haven't gotten any missed calls from the Comelec," he said, hoping for his cell phone, which asked about Bedol's statement that he could not be located.

Bedol said he even had a small gathering on Saturday to celebrate his 50th birthday, attended by two of his three children, his wife and Comelec colleagues.

"I go to my office in the provincial capitol every day. Is that what you call hiding? I also wouldn't leave the country to hide because what could I do anyway? I couldn't practice law anywhere but here, even if I am also a Muslim lawyer," he said.

'Yes, I am a Garci boy'

Bedol said he was "a Garci boy" if that meant being a good friend of Garcillano.

Asked if being mentioned in the Garci tapes was the reason everyone was quick to accuse him of cheating, Bedol replied: "I think so."

"Boy Tamalpais (Comelec regional director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) is a well-being called Garci's and me. He supposed to be Garci boy. Pero (but) because he's friends close to Garci because he is a good person and a good friend," he said.

Bedol said he had not spoken to Garcillano to seek advice now that it was he of the center of a controversy.

"I'll see to it that I'll right then I'm called on my own," he said.

Quake rocks special count; Zubiri ahead

From page A1

in the three towns canvassed, 19 substituted candidates consistently received zero votes.

In Manila, Task Force Maguindanao which sets are up to investigate allegations of cheating during the elections, recommended the dismissal of commissioner Lintang Bedol for being the municipal GILG, or your caller, that name is his custody.

"We recommended to [Bedol's] immediate relief but only of Bedol's duties as presiding officer of the PBOC for relieving him of his position (as a Comelec employee) because he is entitled to due process under the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Code," Comelec Spokesman Jeffrey Ortiz said here fined, told reporters.

Brown also lambasted Bedol for not appearing before the Comelec in Manila despite orders for him to do so.

"He has made us a laughing stock and put us in shame by his nonappearance," Brown said. "We're not persecuting him. He has the documents, isn't that an offense? If he's really innocent as he claims, then he should face us."

Opposition lawyers rebuffed

SO lawyers Sixto Brillantes and Leila de Lima devoted the minutes the canvassing was convened to question the Comelec lawyer Emilio Santos, chair of the special board of canvassers, denied both of their motions to be given a chance to question Bedol and the chairs of the municipal board of canvassers from 22 towns.

The SO lawyers said the board it appears in the proceedings were being "subjudged."

They also pointed out that the special board was constituted by the commission through a resolution and not by law as the Comelec en banc sitting as the National Board of Canvassers, making it "illegal."

"We register our continuing objection to the legality of the special provincial board of canvassers. It has no personality, no authority to act," De Lima told Santos and board members, Comelec lawyers Manuel Laureo and Erlinda Velarde.

The lawyer insisted on the importance of being allowed to question the heads of the municipal boards "on the issue of execution and authenticity of the COCs."

De Lima also wanted to ask Bedol why he refuses further the alleged loss of the five copies of the COCs which would purportedly support administration claims that TU had issued a 12-0 sweep in the province.

Bedol has claimed they were stolen from his office.

De Lima stressed that the board should establish first if indeed the five copy were missing. The opposition has insisted it was proof that it requires that should be reconstituted.

Throughout the day, the feisty De Lima sounded pleading, irate and annoyed at the continued refusal of Santos to allow her and Brillantes to question the heads of municipal boards.

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TEAM UNITY? Lawyer George Erwin Garcia (left) and Comelec Opposition counsel Leila de Lima go over the municipal certificate of canvass from South Upi during the resumption of votes in Maguindanao held at the capitol in Shariff Aguak on Monday. Looking on at right is lawyer Emilio Santos of the special provincial board of canvassers. (Erwin Mascariñas)

Gov't radio reporter shot dead in Tawi-Tawi

From page A1

"Tatang" Bantalipang, a senior reporter of government-owned radio station Radyo ng Bayan station in Tawi-Tawi, at 8 a.m. in the capital town of Bongao, Bantalipang's relative employees and a nephew were wounded in the attack.

Bantalipang, 56, was the town's journalist killed this year, the 32nd since Marcos's martial law in 1986 and the 90th since the Maguindanao massacre of November 2009, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

"The shooting was so quick until I think it was over in less than 30 seconds ... They quickly fled on motorcycles," said Ben Tulawie, a broadcaster who worked with Bantalipang at Radyo ng Bayan, told the Inquirer over the telephone.

Tulawie, 35, said the assassins struck as they disembarked from his nephew's motorcycle in front of the station's main gate.

The gunmen, who had apparently been waiting for Bantalipang's arrival, fired with police a complement of two rifles and a handgun, Tulawie said.

Bantalipang was on his way to work, shielded her with his body when the two gunmen opened fire. Another radio broadcaster Bantalipang's nephew, Sittang Bantalipang, saw both wounded in the leg.

Another said Bantalipang died on the way to the Unos Muhan Memorial Hospital.

Tulawie said they could identify the two gunmen if she saw them again.

2 angles

Senior Supt. Isidro Asis, Tawi-Tawi police chief, said investigators were pursuing two angles in the killing.

"One is the shooting incident in one of the beer houses here where a bar girl got killed ... and the other is the armed group struggle at their radio station," Asis said.

He said Bantalipang recently filed with police a complaint of violation of ethics and harassment against a Radyo ng Bayan employee. Asis declined to identify the employee pending completion of the investigation.

Zenaida Ellasong, Radyo ng Bayan station manager in Sulu, said Bantalipang had asked her to work on his transfer to Jolo "because the working environment in Tawi-Tawi was no longer healthy."

Ellasong said she advised Bantalipang to seek the approval of the Radyo ng Bayan network office in Metro Manila.

Asis said he had talked to Bantalipang's predecessor on the radio station, but she confirmed he had helped unravel her gang's hold on Tawi-Tawi after the shooting incident last week.

"We have some personal problems, but I cannot give any details right now because I, too, am under threat," Asis said.

She appealed to the authorities to facilitate the immediate transfer of her family from Tawi-Tawi to Metro Manila. "If I and my family stay longer here, we might end up like Tatang," Asis said, who has six children, said.

Bowman Pelaez, NUJP secretary general and coordinator of the Committee to Protect Journalists' 30,000 safety office, said "a deep investigation of the case should include Radyo ng Bayan officials."

"All possibilities have to be considered, including the reported ill will in the station," Pelaez said.

Peace advocates

Cecile Mary, reporter of DYK 7 in Dumaguete City, said the radio was "an attack on freedom of expression."

"These two guys were not head-hitting journalists, they were dedicated peace advocates and had never been involved in any controversy," Mary said the reporter in a phone interview.

WLP-chief Jose Torres said the killing of Bantalipang raised doubts on the Aquino pledge to stop the murders of journalists.

"He was not considered a hard-hitting journalist. This means no one is safe. Everyone is now a target. Pilferhoe police say a Ellasong said she was not much related, the same here is relentless this government is really committed to democracy and freedom," Torres said.

"This is a sad day for Philippine journalism. Despite assurances made by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that government would address the problem, the killings persist," he added.

In a recent dialogue with media groups in Malacañang, the dictator ordered the designation of a special prosecutor on issues to handle the killings of journalists. She also promised "technical help in cases of violence once and for all."

John Mendiola, deputy director of the Bureau of Broadcast Services under the executive department of Radyo ng Bayan, urged the police and the military to promptly investigate the killing.

"We hope they can act the record straight, but some actors look like co-responsible killings," he said.

Palace order

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had ordered the police to "exhaust all efforts" to solve and find for the killer of Bantalipang.

The Arroyo administration has drawn heavy flak at home and abroad for the rising number of unsolved killings of media and political activists but also of leftists, human rights lawyers and government critics.

International media groups, like Reporters Without Borders and the International Press Institute, consider the Philippines the most dangerous place for journalists to work in next to Iraq. With reports from Ed Gerard and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao bureau; Pepe and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila; and AFP and Reuters

Infants deaths not only due to formula–PHAP

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL AND HEALTHCARE Association of the Philippines yesterday claimed reports by local and international health organizations that thousands of babies died every year because of complications brought about by infant formula were "outdated findings."

"The timeline is not supported by any national or international statistics and many non-breastfed infants do not receive infant formula and use inappropriate alternatives," the PHAP said in a statement.

The PHAP is bathed in a legal battle with the Department of Health over the authority of the department to expand the scope of the country's Milk Code. The code, as passed by Congress, regulates the advertisement of infant formula to before-given one year, but now DOH implementing rules include products for babies up to two years.

Solon want statistics. PHAP said it "believes unequivocally that breastfeeding is the gold standard for infant nutrition," but it added that "the reality is that many mothers find themselves in situations where they chose not to breastfeed, cannot breastfeed or stop breastfeeding for various reasons."

Mother's right

In a press conference organized by PHAP yesterday, US-based pediatrician William Mitchell A. said that mothers had the right to decide not to breastfeed their babies.

The PHAP listed several reasons women choose not to breastfeed. The leading reason is when mothers do not have enough milk. Others develop breast problems while others are busy with work. Others commit sex taboo or are ill, or when the mother sees ill or when the baby refuses to be breastfed.

"We do not want to create an environment where those who do not breast feed are not getting adequate information. We have to save for all infants if their rules are known and implemented when one isn't," Mr. Lim explained.

It may be a distant second to breast milk, but Mr. Lim said infant formula was still better than other alternatives parents are using like coco milk, watered-down milk and others.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Food and Drugs met with the multinational milk company Wyeth yesterday to discuss the implementation of its order to recall milk runs and boxes of Bonamyl-e infant packages.

BFAD deputy director Jesusa Ramos said the licensees after the meeting that anyone who had bought affected infant formula products could have them replaced at supermarkets and Wyeth company offices.

Ramos said recall was a prompt, effected one, could be determined based on their diplomatic order. Lim already opened would also be replaced, but only if they were at least half filled. Empty ones would not be accepted.

Brands affected by the recall are Bonakid, Bonamil, Bonum, Progess Gold, Promil, Promil Gold and Promil Kid, manufactured between May 23 and July 24 last year.

Pinay's death 'mysterious'; DFA orders embassy probe

By Cynthia D. Rotairo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS yesterday ordered the Philippine Embassy in Qatar to dig deeper into the death of a 31-year-domestic helper in Doha after reports said her body bore signs of torture.

An ABS-CBN news report from Qatar had said 24-year-old Melissa Lacsamana, who was found dead in her room on June 22, had bruises on her face and head. A mark on her neck also seemed by the police complained she might have been strangled.

Police also reviewed her blood-stained pillow and said it was overlapping whether Lacsamana, who had been working in Qatar for two years, had been raped.

In a report to the DFA, Philippine Charge d'Affaires Rosario Lemque in Doha said they were coordinating with Qatar authorities on the investigation of Lacsamana's death.

Embassy personnel went to the Hamad Hospital Morgue where the autopsy was being conducted to view the body but were not allowed to take photographs.

Lemque said they were able to secure a copy of Lacsamana's passport at the police station. She also presented belongings were she found to be intact there.

According to the DFA, Lacsamana's Egyptian employer is in police custody while the investigation is ongoing.

Lemque also said the government would provide assistance to her relatives and report to them any new developments.

Intervene case

Meanwhile, the DFA said yesterday it was pursuing assistance for the overseas Filipino worker suspected of killing his employer in Saudi Arabia.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said the embassy there had been instructed to help Jorna Intervallo who was arrested by police for allegedly killing her employer on June 5. He is currently detained at the Malaz Central Jail in Riyadh.

Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Antonio Villamor has asked the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs for assistance in getting permission to visit Intervallo.

Villamor said Intervallo would also secure the services of a Saudi lawyer for Intervallo.

Death in Yemen

At the same time, foreign affairs officials are verifying reports that a Filipino seafarer in Yemen was gunned down by a soldier who ran amok from a moving patrol boat.

DFA spokesperson Gary Cacnahan said consulate officials in Riyadh were told to proceed to Hodeida because the Philippines does not have an embassy in that Arab nation.

According to reports from Yemen's interior ministry, a soldier with "emotional problems" gunned down two Asian seafarers, including a Filipino, working for Occidental Petroleum Corp. (Oxy) in the eastern province of Shabwah. A senior American executive, two Britons, a Romanian and a Yemeni were also reportedly wounded in the shooting spree.

GCash and DTI join hands to help Filipino entrepreneurs

Applying for a new business name with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has never been easier with GCash.

Through DTI's Business Name Registration System (BNRS) Online Payment Facility, business owners can now pay for fees just by logging on to the Internet and by having GCash or their Globe or TM SIMs. GCash is the revolutionary mobile commerce platform powered by G-Xchange, Inc. (GXI)—a wholly owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom—that turns your cellphone into a mobile wallet which lets you send and receive payments through a simple text message.

DTI Secretary Peter Favila awards young entrepreneur May Cholli Adasa her business name registration certificate, which was applied and paid for in under five minutes using GCash via the DTI's Business Name Registration System (BNRS) Online Payment Facility.

A live demonstration of the BNRS Online Payment Facility was conducted recently at its official launch, with the entire registration process taking just less than five minutes. May Cholli Adasa, a young laundry shop owner, simply logged on to the BNRS website and followed the easy step-by-step instructions. After confirming her business name and details, she then chose to pay her registration fee with GCash. She was asked for her 11-digit mobile number, and promptly received an SMS asking for confirmation of the DTI payment. Ms. Adasa then replied with her PIN to complete the transaction. Immediately, she received a text message confirming her payment and serving as an official receipt for her to claim her signed and sealed registration certificate.

"It's very encouraging to have a system like this that's very quick and easy to use. It frees me up to focus more on my business," Ms. Adasa said.

On hand for the BNRS launch were (L to R) DTI Senior Undersecretary Thomas Aquino, DTI Secretary Peter Favila, and GXI President Rissa Maniego-Ilota.

"The BNRS-GCash online payment facility is an affirmation of DTI's commitment to customer service and e-government. It is another means to facilitate and simplify business procedures and boost our anti-red tape efforts. We want our clients to have a good business name registration and business name renewal experience," said DTI Secretary Peter B. Favila.

"We want to reach out to more of our clients across all sectors, encourage the creation and expansion of businesses and investments, and unleash the Filipino entrepreneurial spirit, whether online or offline!" agreed DTI Senior Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino.

"Today marks yet another milestone for GCash as we launch our partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry and provide an enabling platform that contributes to promoting further efficiency in the delivery of government services to provide the best public service to Filipinos," said GXI President Rissa Maniego-Ilota.

The BNRS brings the power and convenience of e-commerce to more Filipinos, as entrepreneurs now have a better way to establish their businesses. GCash payment for the BNRS is currently available in the NCR, Rizal, Laguna, Batangas, Pampanga, and Iloilo, but will be implemented in more areas within the year. To find out more, visit www.bnrs.dti.gov.ph

dti
TM
ang lakas mo sa Globe

More jobs today in Subic ...

From page A1

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said.

CDC and SBMA are government-owned corporations created by Congress to oversee the conversion of Clark and Subic. Their mother agency is the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Pullout of US forces

The government undertook the base conversion program in 1992, a year after the pullout of the US military and the expiration of the Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement which cover at least 100,000 hectares, when the Senate rejected the extension of the 1947 military bases agreement in 1991.

Lozo said the growing employment at Clark could be attributed to the "increased confidence of investors and locators in President Macapagal-Arroyo's support for the development of the base area".

Tax incentives regained

Investors regained their tax incentives in April this year when legislators, led by Sen. Ralph Recto, worked to amend Republic Act No. 7227 or the Bases Conversion law that did not contain explicit provisions on business perks unlike those enjoyed by locators at the Subic free port.

In the campaign to regain the benefits, Mr. Arroyo had certified rare billion urgent.

Clark has "steadily achieved the vision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to make it one of the employment engines in the country today," Lozo said.

Growth drivers

In Clark, as of May, companies producing garments, pharmaceuticals, furniture and other items were the top job generators at the free port.

They were followed by businesses process outsourcing (BPO) firms and tourism-related companies.

There are 147 firms in service-related businesses, 123 firms in the industrial sector, 28 in commercial, 15 in tourism, 10 in tourism, 10 in BPO and information technology, 8 in utility and 4 in housing, according to CDC records.

Their combined investments for 2006 totaled P22.3 billion. Exports in Clark last year reached more than $1 billion.

TI facility

More jobs will be generated when Texas Instruments Inc., the world's biggest maker of mobile phone chips, starts construction of a $1 billion semiconductor facility in Clark in July to August.

The facility will cover eight hectares and could create a total of 10,000 new jobs as full capacity. Trade Secretary Peter Favila said last month. The facility will start production in 2009.

In Subic, the services sector accounted for the biggest number of employees with 32,399 or 48.27 percent of the total work force. The manufacturing sector contributed 30,021 jobs or 44.73 percent of the total work force.

Unlike in Clark where women workers are the majority, men hold most of the jobs in Subic. Most men in Clark come from Pampanga while those in Subic are largely residents of Olongapo City which is just outside the free port.

Lozo said most of the Clark-based companies complied with the minimum wage law. The daily minimum wage in Central Luzon ranges from P276.50 to P328.50, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board approved in July 2006 at least P7.50 to P18.50 in additional cost of living allowance, which will be integrated in the daily wages next month.

Banner year

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga called 2006 a "banner year" because of the "unrelenting investment spending in the free port."

Revenue collections, he said, amounted to P6.9 billion, which went to the national treasury. The regional enterprise at the Subic free port reached 981 as of April.

The SBMA directors approved 129 new projects worth $1.43 billion in 2006.

Salonga said Korean and Chinese businesses accounted for the biggest foreign direct investments (FDI) in the free port, with the entry of Kenjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. Ltd. and Rebel Empire Group Inc. China Co. Ltd., among others.

Arreza said Honda, one of the world's largest shipbuilding firms, on Monday raised its employment target from 7,000 to 10,000.

Logistics hub

President Macapagal-Arroyo has envisioned Clark and Subic as a unified logistics hub that would be the "best" in Southeast Asia.

Both free ports host international airports, the biggest being the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark where at least five low-cost airlines have operated since 2006.

A Japanese government-funded 94-km highway linking the two free ports is being built on the western ranges of Central Luzon, and the BCDA is working to attract another airline to the airport supposedly due to right-of-way problems.

The Subic Port Development Project is nearing completion, funded also by a loan from the Japanese government.

Arreza said SBMA was preparing to achieve a "much bigger performance — and drive growth and employment by aiming to attract investment pledges of up to $5 billion, creating 100,000 jobs, and posting $2 billion export by the year 2010."

AERIAL view of the bustling Subic Bay Freeport which has attracted hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign investments generating tens of thousands of jobs. LEONARDO DAVID/INQ

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/establishments have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Computer Programmer
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Computer Programmer
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Director of Computer Programs
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Computer Programmer cum Sub Division Chief
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Computer Programmer Sub Division Chief
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Assistant Secretary
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Computer Programmers Division Executive
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Assistant Secretary cum Division Executive in Computer Applications Development
TOP ABUNDANT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION [illegible]	[illegible]	Operations Unit Division Chief
PRIDE INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	Corporate Controller
PACIFIC STAR L & SEO HYUN YOUR CORP. [illegible]	[illegible]	Operations Manager
TOUR MANAGER, INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	Sales Coordinator
SYSTEMS INNOVATION CONSULTANTS, INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	Marketing Consultant
SEOUL SCHOOL (ALSO KNOWN AS SEOUL FOREIGN SCHOOL) INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	Grade School Chinese Teacher
SEOUL SCHOOL (ALSO KNOWN AS SEOUL FOREIGN SCHOOL) INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	Grade School Chinese Teacher
SUMMIT OLYMPIA SMART SERVICES RESOURCES (PTI HOTELS, INC.) [illegible]	[illegible]	Assistant Residence Manager
TOUR CARE TRAVEL & TOUR INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	General Manager
AC REAL ESTATE CORPORATION PHIL. BRANCH [illegible]	[illegible]	Engineering Consultant
PAN PACIFIC SHIPYARD SERVICE BUSINESS INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	Assistant General Manager
[illegible]	[illegible]	Operations Manager
DONGKUK PHILIPPINES CO., INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	Secretary
DONGKUK PHILIPPINES CO., INC. [illegible]	[illegible]	Director

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LEONARDO B. TRABUCO
Regional Director

Gov't warned people of economic fallout, security threats

From page A1

down, thousands of residents of Olongapo and Central Luzon would lose their jobs.

Meanwhile, then Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Lozo said that Subic's Leader Supervised Area would lead to a security vacuum in that.

Senate de Villa, defense secretary at the time, also warned that the effects of a "no" vote on the Armed Forces of the Philippines. "The modernization program [of the AFP] would ground to a halt since it takes an enormous amount of money to procure such items under our state economics," he said.

To persuade the senators to vote in favor of the new treaty Arroyo appealed for a repeat of the 1986 People Power that put her to power. On Sept. 30, 1991, she led a rally at Rizal Park. But the treaty, which police estimated to number between 150,000 and 200,000, fell short of the required one million signatures.

On Sept. 16, the Senate voted 12-11, rejecting the new treaty, ending nearly a century of US military presence in the country.

In 1993, Aquino's successor Fidel Ramos appointed Gordon administrator of Subic. During his term, Gordon transformed the base into a free port and investment destination. Inquirer Research

CLARK Air Base in Pampanga, which used to be home to the US 13th Air Force, is now Clark Field and the site of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport. LEONARDO DAVID/INQUIRER

NBI sees foul play in loss of 'broadband...

From page A1

(state-backed).

It is the first communications secretive to be entered into by the Philippines with China, a rising global power. Only the United States and other Western nations had previously been given the privilege of installing communication networks in the country.

The project, under the 10-year government-to-government deal, would provide the Philippines least a 3-percent annual interest, is designed to meet the telecommunications needs of national government agencies and local government units down to the barangay level.

Security matters

Asked about the cancellation of the deal on the contract of the ZTE deal, he said on global terrorism, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the Philippines, in effect, ceded to a foreign power "other than America and the rest of the free world" certain rights to hold a vital war communications, an integral part of security.

"Security considerations are vital parts of US concerns. The bottom line, however, is the fact that the Philippines deals with one or top of the others, making China a real Southeast Asia economic military power player. This probably invites Uncle Sam," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

Asked why anyone would read the documents, the senator said it "may provide matters pertaining to of certain power brokers ... something that can't be explained away."

Meanwhile, yesterday said it was not aware if both parties had already recommended the five MOAs signed by ZTE vice president Yu Yong and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Charges

The NBI is set to file charges against Ang for violation of Article 217 (malversation of public funds and property) in relation to Article 2, Paragraph 4 (misuse, chronic application of criminal acts) of the Revised Penal Code, before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Ang, 31, is also director of the Philippine Trade and Investment Center under the Department of Trade and Industry.

Illustrating said the NBI, after a thorough investigation of "documentary and testimonial" evidence, found that "the issuing instrument was non-existent." The theft took place in the Shrines Mandarin Hotel in Ashton, Ilocos.

"Such were intentionally lost due to evasive answers," he said, adding that it was "highly suspicious that the documents would be misplaced."

"It is very unusual for International Ang to entrust the same to Allan Lin, if such was true, considering the importance and sensitivity of the documents from if Allan Lin already hostile ones and confidence in Dimaranan] Ang, it is very suggestive that there is more than one reason for such were the fruits of their labor," Illustrating told Mendoza in a memorandum on May 24.

NBI report

The Inquirer obtained a copy of the memorandum over the

Thinking that the envelope might have fallen while in route to Lin's room, Ang told authorities that they immediately undertook housekeeping and security as well as the van driver, but they did not find it.

The NBI report showed that Ang and Lin, locked for the documents in the airport VIP room at around 1 a.m. on April 22, but the search was fruitless.

Video surveillance

Ang were met with Richard Huang, the hotel's duty manager, to check the hotel's video surveillance tape. In the video, Ang identified the envelope on the luggage cart and tracked it from the lobby to the 18th floor where their rooms were.

Ang alleged that Lin were out to eat between 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The video during the period showed no one entering the room's logs. No hotel key card was used to enter Lin's room.

Assisted by the hotel management, the custodian official scanned the contents of the envelope, including the ballpens, were quarantined. He then called up his counterparts at the Philippine Department of Commerce to assist him in requesting the manifest to the police.

The police conducted an investigation until 3 a.m. of April 23 but they still did not find the envelope or a logical explanation for its disappearance, the NBI said.

The NBI claimed that Ang kept defending Lin. The Chinese denied involvement or knowledge of the missing documents, saying that he was not aware that the MOAs were in his custody.

Lin said he had no contact with the deals of ZTE Corp.

Break textbook cartel, education chief urged

By Jerry E. Esplanada

BREAK UP THE TEXTBOOK CARTEL

The call—addressed to Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus and other top Department of Education officials—was sounded by some education officers of the DepEd and members of the militant Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT).

It was "more of a challenge than an appeal," said a staffer in the DepEd main office in Pasig City.

Lapus had admitted a group of suppliers had been conducting huge textbook contracts.

"Improve bidding, targeting, improve services and stop make...money as agave ng one (There are some really good ones, some are careless and some have become masters at 'whatever')," he said, referring to the supplier-wheeler-dealers.

"But from where we sit we can only act on what is legal," he added.

"We follow set rules. We're transparent and if there are any complaints, any protests, there are mechanisms," he said.

Lapus asked diagnostics of textbook suppliers and pledged more to come out and judge for themselves.

"They have to call us. We can't just issue a gag order based on all the noise in the media. There must be evidence. We can't act on that. Only then are we getting special treatment from DepEd ... I will not allow that. In fact, I don't even know any of those guys," he said.

Low-quality content

Earlier, he told the bayanan: "If there is such a textbook cartel, maybe it has been here for decades now. But there must be a complaint supported by evidence. I can't just ban suppliers without the benefit of an investigation and due process."

Lapus, a former Cebu representative and Landbank chair and CEO, said he could not just chastise the DepEd, the biggest department in the Arroyo administration, overnight.

He lamented that too much attention was being paid to the DepEd when "operators are all the same in all government procurements."

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong ACT, said the DepEd's "centralized procurement system for textbooks" was to blame for the problems.

The system, Tinio said, "has provided the conditions for the emergence of a textbook cartel dominated by big publishing companies. It is susceptible to large-scale corruption and has failed to produce high quality content."

"Maybe it's time to seriously consider decentralizing the procurement of textbooks," he said in a text message.

Improve efficiency, transparency

In a statement, Lapus said the DepEd was "adopting reform measures to further enhance its capability to provide quality textbooks for all public school students."

He said that "as part of ongoing textbook procurement reforms, the bidding for contracts have been separated from the bidding for printing, beginning with the procurement of English textbooks this year."

"We want a wider playing field from among qualified suppliers and we encourage printers with good track records to join the bidding," he said. "That way, we can evaluate book contents separately and then legally."

The, he said, would "lead to the best contents and the best printing quality."

The DepEd has created three bidding and awards committees (BAC) to "improve efficiency and transparency."

With the three BACs, each with their own secretariat, "we can ensure that all concerns are addressed at the soonest possible time," Lapus said.

PAL workers will have to wait longer for '88 13th-month pay

By Leila B. Salaverria

EMPLOYEES OF FLIGHT ATTENDANT AND MECHANICAL WILL have to wait for the company's receiver Philippine Airlines Inc. (PAL) for the 13th-month pay for some of them could be received, the Supreme Court said.

The high tribunal suspended proceedings in the labor dispute between Philippine Airlines Employees Association (Palea) and Philippine Airlines Inc. because the second flag carrier was still undergoing rehabilitation.

It also directed PAL to periodically update the court on the status of its rehabilitation and resolved that defying the directive would result in sanctions.

The case of the ongoing rehabilitation of petitioner Philippine Airlines Inc., herein proceedings are hereunder suspended until further orders from this Court. Accordingly, petitioner is hereby ordered to quarterly update the Court on the status of its ongoing rehabilitation within the first days from the beginning of every quarter, with a warning that noncompliance therewith will merit disciplinary sanctions," the high court said in a June 19 resolution.

Stop monetary claims

PAL, Asia's oldest airline, went into default, buried in 1.999 because of labor disputes and problems with paying off a $12.3 billion debt.

In response to halting proceedings in the labor dispute, the Supreme Court said earlier cases had established the merit in stop monetary claims against a financially distressed company so as not to dissipate its resources.

It said the purpose of the rehabilitation might be defeated if the court allowed claims against the company to continue.

"This Court's adherence to the above-mentioned rule has been resolute and steadfast as evidenced by its oft-repeated application in a plethora of cases," it said.

The labor dispute between PAL and Palea stemmed from the airline's refusal to give the 13th-month pay to the association's members who were regularized after April 30, 1988, as purportedly stated in the company's collective bargaining agreement.

Palea said all its members, whether regular or not, should receive the 13th-month pay stipulated in the CBA.

Unfair labor practice

But PAL said rank and file employees who became regular employees after April 30, 1988 were not entitled to the 13th-month pay because they were given Christmas bonuses in December 1988. It added that the employees could be, in principle, considered to have received their 13th-month pay when they got their Christmas bonuses.

The employees filed a complaint for unfair labor practice against PAL in 1989. The labor arbiter ruled against the employees, but the decision was reversed on appeal by the National Labor Relations Commission.

PAL's appeal of the decision was denied and the case was elevated to the Court of Appeals, which ruled with the NLRC.

PAL then questioned the appellate court's decision before the Supreme Court.

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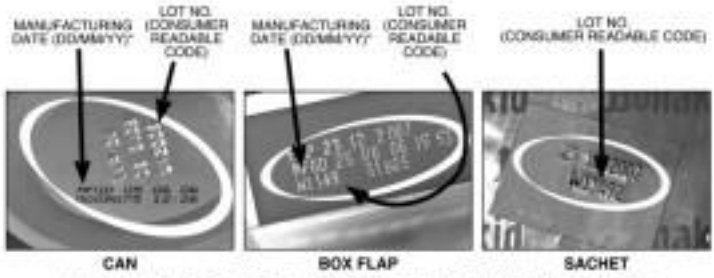
P. M. de Claro
President & General Manager
Wyeth Philippines, Inc.



Please check the bottom of the can, box flap or sachet of your Wyeth product for the Manufacturing Date and the Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)

* Please note the manufacturing date shown on the containers is DD/MM/YY. The lots listed on the opposite page show the date as MM/DD/YY.

WYETH FORMULA LOTS INCLUDED IN THE BFAD RECALL ORDER

BONAKID™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W1118	06-1118	05/19/06
W1128	06-1128	05/21/06
W1129	06-1129	05/22/06
W1130	06-1130	05/23/06
W1131	06-1131	05/23/06
W1132	06-1132	05/24/06
W1133	06-1133	05/24/06
W1134	06-1134	05/25/06
W1135	06-1135	05/26/06
W1136	06-1136	05/26/06
W1139	06-1139	06/21/06
W1141	06-1141	06/22/06
W1142	06-1142	06/22/06
W1143	06-1143	06/23/06
W1144	06-1144	06/23/06
W1146A	06-1146	06/24/06
W1147	06-1147	06/24/06
W1148	06-1148	06/24/06
W1149	06-1149	06/25/06
W1150	06-1150	06/25/06
W1151	06-1151	06/26/06
W1155	06-1155	06/27/06
W1156	06-1156	06/28/06
W1159	06-1159	06/29/06
W1160	06-1160	06/30/06
W1162	06-1162	06/30/06
W1163	06-1163	07/22/06
W1164	06-1164	07/22/06
W1166	06-1166	07/22/06
W1167	06-1167	07/23/06
W1168	06-1168	07/23/06
W1169	06-1169	07/23/06
W1170A	06-1170	07/24/06
W1171	06-1171	07/23/06
W1172	06-1172	07/24/06
W1173	06-1173	07/24/06
W1174	06-1174	07/24/06
W1175	06-1175	07/24/06
W1176	06-1176	07/25/06
W1177	06-1177	07/25/06
W1178	06-1178	07/26/06
W1179	06-1179	07/26/06
W1180	06-1180	07/26/06

BONAMIL™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
50060654	50060654	10/19/05
50060655	50060655	10/20/05
50060656	50060656	10/21/05
50060657	50060657	10/24/05
W0055	06-0055	04/25/06
W0065	06-0065	05/01/06
W0078	06-0078	05/22/06
W0081	06-0081	05/23/06
W0082	06-0082	05/24/06
W0083	06-0083	05/25/06
W0084	06-0084	05/25/06
W0085	06-0085	05/25/06
W0102	06-0102	06/16/06
W0104	06-0104	06/17/06
W0105	06-0105	06/17/06
W0106	06-0106	06/19/06
W0107	06-0107	06/19/06
W0108	06-0108	06/20/06
W0109	06-0109	06/21/06

BONAMIL™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W0110	06-0110	06/21/06
W0110I	06-0110	06/22/06
W0111	06-0111	06/22/06
W0111A	06-0111	06/22/06
W0112	06-0112	06/22/06
W0113	06-0113	06/23/06
W0114	06-0114	06/23/06
W0115	06-0115	06/24/06
W0116	06-0116	06/25/06
W0117	06-0117	06/25/06
W0118	06-0118	06/25/06
W0120	06-0120	07/14/06
W0121	06-0121	07/15/06
W0122	06-0122	07/15/06
W0123	06-0123	07/15/06
W0124	06-0124	07/16/06
W0125	06-0125	07/16/06
W0126	06-0126	07/17/06
W0127	06-0127	07/17/06
W0128	06-0128	07/18/06
W0131	06-0131	07/19/06
W0133	06-0133	07/21/06
W0134	06-0134	07/21/06

BONNA™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W4133	06-4133	06/07/06
W4135	06-4135	06/08/06
W4138	06-4138	06/09/06
W4140	06-4140	06/11/06
W4143	06-4143	06/12/06
W4145	06-4145	06/13/06
W4151	06-4151	06/27/06
W4156	06-4156	06/29/06
W4160	06-4160	07/01/06
W4161	06-4161	07/01/06
W4162	06-4162	07/02/06
W4166	06-4166	07/04/06
W4167	06-4167	07/04/06
W4169	06-4169	07/05/06
W4170	06-4170	07/05/06
W4171	06-4171	07/06/06
W4172A	06-4172	07/07/06
W4174	06-4174	07/09/06
W4176	06-4176	07/10/06
W4177	06-4177	07/10/06
W4178	06-4178	07/11/06
W4179	06-4179	07/11/06
W4180	06-4180	07/12/06
W4181	06-4181	07/12/06
W4182	06-4182	07/13/06
W4183	06-4183	07/13/06

PROGRESS™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W12013	06-12013	06/09/06
W12014	06-12014	06/10/06
W12015	06-12015	06/10/06
W12016	06-12016	06/10/06
W12017	06-12017	06/11/06
W12018	06-12018	06/11/06
W12019	06-12019	06/11/06
W12020	06-12020	06/12/06

PROGRESS™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W12021	06-12021	06/13/06
W12022	06-12022	07/16/06
W12023	06-12023	07/17/06
W12024	06-12024	07/17/06
W12026	06-12026	07/18/06
W12027	06-12027	07/18/06
W12028	06-12028	07/19/06
W12029	06-12029	07/19/06
W12030	06-12030	07/19/06
W12032	06-12032	07/21/06

PROMIL™

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W8020	06-8020	07/25/06
W8021	06-8021	07/28/06
W8023	06-8023	07/26/06

PROMIL™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W2012	06-2012	07/12/06
W2013	06-2013	07/13/06
W2014	06-2014	07/14/06
W2015	06-2015	07/14/06
W2016	06-2016	07/14/06
W2017	06-2017	07/14/06
W2018	06-2018	07/14/06
W2021	06-2021	07/18/06
W2022	06-2022	07/18/06
W2025	06-2025	07/31/06

PROMIL™ KID

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W13084	06-13084	03/08/06
W13087	06-13087	06/14/06
W13088	06-13088	06/14/06
W13089	06-13089	06/15/06
W13090	06-13090	06/15/06
W13090A	06-13090	06/16/06
W13091	06-13091	06/16/06
W13092	06-13092	06/16/06
W13093	06-13093	06/16/06
W13094	06-13094	06/17/06
W13095	06-13095	06/17/06
W13096	06-13096	06/18/06
W13097	06-13097	06/18/06
W13099	06-13099	07/01/06
W13102	06-13102	07/02/06
W13105	06-13105	07/04/06
W13107A	06-13107	07/05/06
W13108	06-13108	07/05/06
W13109	06-13109	07/05/06
W13110	06-13110	07/06/06
W13111	06-13111	07/06/06
W13112	06-13112	07/06/06
W13113	06-13113	07/07/06
W13114	06-13114	07/07/06
W13115	06-13115	07/08/06
W13116	06-13116	07/08/06
W13117	06-13117	07/08/06
W13119	06-13119	07/10/06
W13120	06-13120	07/11/06
W13121	06-13121	07/13/06

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Your feedback: inquirer.net/comments/messages to 2267 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Money or life?

LAST WEEK, CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO PUNO SAID that the issue surrounding the Milk Code is not complex and should not take long to resolve. He said the Court would only have to rule on the constitutionality of the revised implementing rules and regulations of the code that would prohibit the advertisement, promotion or marketing of materials and activities for breast milk substitutes for infants up to two years old.

EDITORIAL

We hope that more, as the Chief Justice has said, the issue is simple, the Court will soon rule on the case as every day that passes that the new rules are not enforced could mean the death of hundreds of malnourished infants.

The Milk Code was signed into law in 1986 and the revised rules were issued in 2006, a gap of 20 years during which scientific knowledge about breast milk and infant formula vastly improved. The code covers only infants up to 12 months old, but the revised rules cover children up to 2 years old. It is this amendment that the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines, speaking on behalf of the US-based infant formula companies, is contesting.

Probably because of the aggressive advertising and promotional campaigns of the infant formula companies, exclusive breastfeeding rates for the first four to five months decreased from 20 percent in 1999 to 16 percent in 2003. There are no figures yet for 2004 to 2006, but the figure could be even lower now, given the busier lifestyles of Filipino women nowadays.

Jose Fernandez, executive director of Aragon, said that about 16,000 babies die every year due to malnutrition. He said Isabel, medical officer of the Health Organization, for her part said that 13,000 deaths could have been avoided had infants been exclusively breast-fed in the first six months of life. He said formula-fed infants are 14 times more likely to die from diarrhea. But whether 13,000 or 16,000, these infant deaths are simply unacceptable. Babies should not die just because mothers mistakenly believe that infant formulas are an adequate substitute for breast milk during the first two years of their lives.

Felicitas Aranza, PHAP lawyer, said at the Supreme Court hearing last week that the revised rules would cause the milk companies to lose P30 billion. But why as Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez countered, should the milk companies be more concerned about a decrease in their profits than the loss of babies' lives? Should corporate interests take precedence over infant health?

Multinational companies have apparently chosen the Philippines as the "battleground" for a legal dispute over milk substitutes because it is one of the most vulnerable countries. Using aggressive and sophisticated advertisements and promotions, these companies have created a big market for their products in the Philippines.

The Philippine government will not readily have the safety of infants' breasts. It will be regulated only for infants up to the age of 12 because the first two years are the most vulnerable period of a baby's life. Even without the Milk Code it could be argued that the state has the police power to regulate the sale of food, including infant formula, that could affect people's health and lives.

More than 20 years of research have established that breast milk is perfectly suited to nourish infants and protect them from illness. The primary benefit of breast milk is nutritional; it contains the right amount of fatty acids, lactose, water and amino acids for human growth.

Breast-fed babies have fewer illnesses because human milk transfers to the infant a mother's antibodies to disease. Human milk straight from the breast is always sterile and uncontaminated. Nursing creates an early attachment between mother and child, and the baby enjoys a sense of security from the warmth and presence of the mother. And in a poor country like the Philippines, breast-feeding is definitely a cheaper way of nourishing infants than giving them infant formula.

But all these are forgotten because, according to a recent TV documentary, milk companies "with their sophisticated advertisements, clever promotions and persistent sales representatives" have convinced the public that powdered milk is a good choice for infant feeding. The marketing of infant formula is causing fewer mothers to breast-feed, including those who can ill afford artificial milk. With about 16,000 infant deaths every year due to malnutrition, it may not be forbidden to say as the documentary does, that "the milk companies' formula for profits is a formula for disaster."

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This week's mailbag

"A FRIEND IN MANILA SENT ME YOUR column, 'Expository texts,' [Inquirer, 6/22/07] on the abduction of Annie Bumpus and other desaparecidos," Sarmenio-siManan professor emeritus Gavin Goodman e-mailed. "Such traps, it is a reminder of the stupidity of a country which I loved since I first set foot, in 1946, on the Isaac-Isaac/Santa Cruz wharf.

"My curiosity for what happened to Philippine society in the last 60 years is quickened. I just study Fulbright professor in IPP in 1988. I worked at the un-silenced Arlegui warehouse while researching the Quezon Papers. Often, I was an aide-campista. And there was unforgettable Philippine hospitality—ices with President Carlos Garcia, breakfast with Imee Marcos-Lopez—plus Read Philippine and the superb dances on Embassy Row.a

"Nostalgia has to finish. But these memories in my life...is merely concerned with the Philippines. I have left it hope for the country. Your column should be required reading for all Filipinos, let alone foreigners like myself."

"Sorry but you made quite 'fallacious' error in policy [2]" (Inquirer, 6/07/07), e-mailed Rodolfo "Boy" Valentino, (also, The column needed Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña's help denouncing Lapu-Lapu's modern denouncers because their parents used "wrong" file system) vacation from Cebu matters because they lived in Tibiran, where his opponent governs.

"Your column should be titled: 'Should Inner Circle's closure of the road have remained to let Gov. Fernández fascist. 'I don't care if parents give alcohol to kindergarten because that [road belongs to Cory Pilla]."

"That is five-star-body governance. The Grand Rudi complained that he be provincial head in the 1970s, then governor Eduardo Gullas reminded the crowd. Once upon, Osmeña decorated the unicorn."

Lapulapu's newest city of Cebuana confirmed when "Tinnie Jaque bringing food!" (Inquirer, 6/21/07) asserted the frenzy to create new cities, from 66 to 1990s. Cebu city, seems from

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

lack of larger vision, writes former UN former Napoleon Bergen.

"The national highway continues. Children from modern schools. An area worn road shows as to the site. And the evening is dusty. No running, no planning! Result: a state of chaos, hatred, fears, squatter shanties, sidewalk markets, open gutters and travelers whose journey spans traffic rules.

"In Columbia's center is a historical landmark: Bolivar's house. But traffic gridlock has stranded the Vito to the 17th floor of tourist to a trickle. No one thinks of repair rules and infrastructure needed by a tourism program should have multiplier effects. Thus, local street hawkers first have fun opening for swimming pools operators before zooming."

"Cebu's cities keeping bigger. But shame, these officials have yet to observe their glorified houses are to scare. Or where are going. But have they the ability to convert vision into an implementable plan. But they have the temerity to call themselves the center?"

From Santa Clara, California, come these observations from his native Bicol' boats. She watches 'Philippines Tonight' and 'TV Patrol.'"

"Why do they keep showing old footage, like this festival which among them guns, Manila Bay sunset, or they never showing the real Philippines. Or they don't have any new pictures to show them they shouldn't show any."

"Why don't they footages who flies to channel 4 and 7 whether travelling in Manila? We know there are dated footage. Be decent. TV Patrol even seems to conceal sound effects like an action movie. Can you blame foreigners if they think the Philippines is on the brink of war?"

"Filipinos are not the only ones who watch these shows. They're tuned in the US, Europe, Middle East and Asia, because we expose to English. Our overseas departments spends millions to promote our country abroad. Our consulates agree to entertain the opposite 24 hours a day, every time."

"Channel 10 airs news programs from Korea, Greece, India, Iran, Germany, France, Russia, Bob Edwardes and Miriam have more language setup. But compare the reporting styles. You may not understand everything they say but their delivery get transmitted from historical reporting.

"Congressional and Tribunong Bayan' share our bad media image to the single most problematic challenge that our relevant development agencies address. "That labor issues are our advantages. As the third largest English-speaking country, we have an edge over China, Thailand or Vietnam.

"A picture is worth a thousand words. But all you have on TV is the ugly. Media should report what is right. But it can be balanced only for those policymakers per capita. But Rio Tito does not air them every day; it doesn't have the ratings of 'Good Morning America' and NBC Today to feature celebrity issues one is to celebrate."

"We have no control over the most troubling or kidnapping by Abu Sayyaf, NPA or demagogic. But we can do without sensational, and reporting that enable terrorists to spread fear."

"In a single household, my Baguio is for here to perish. But I did something by writing the letter. Now, what about you?"

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

'Law-kohan'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

JUDY POE SPELL FRAUD THE STORIES! brings fans of law. The Senate cop says all the petitions it sworn, he says, but in the end turn into 'Tribunes' time went on the courts, are we done. "We are dealing with the separation of powers. When the court says no, there's nothing you can do about it."

His wan sister, Miriam Santiago, goes further Tribunes' time. she says, is just like Senate. Adviser. Tribunes has no public office and need not be elected. Thus, the term voter should void. Then Senator is petulant but term in senate does not mean that she should be free to attend Senate session. That would be a violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution."

That is all very well, except for several things.

First is that Senate Rules should be saying these things. Love no longer, but we an advisor of material but and says Marcos' chief legal officer in the dock after the dictator's ouster. Enrile lawyer himself, was more obsessed with finding a legal justification for his illegal usurpation of power and its murderous consequences, and employed a battery of lawyers. Enrile among them, for the purpose. He built an entire dedicated to interpreting Indeterminate statutes. Then are Enrile suddenly discovering the majesty of law, you can be sure it will be a travesty of justice.

Second is that it is not true at all that the members of the country, probably with the exception of the Supreme Court, will only be driven by an honest pronouncements, are independent or sometimes a bastion of the separation of powers. The courts many on hopping Tribunes in the workaday, it will not be to ward of that dogged spin, it will be a sign of their abiding irrelevance. It will not be a sign that they will not care to in pursuit, it will be a sign they have long given in to phoneys.

The one thing EDSA—some understood to me that the core of law but the law of force. Look at those courts determined efforts—with Estrella Perez finding at them with a whip like a cowhide—to keep Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in power. Look at how the Supreme Court has bent over backward to accommodate her every whim, every caprice, every outrage. Look at how it has refused to act on petitions to declare a state of emergency unconstitutional, to declare the Arroyo presidency illegitimate, to declare the Arroyo presidency illegitimate, to declare the Arroyo presidency illegitimate

Nelly Villafuerte's coping produces a helpful book

THE RIGHTS SUING TO BE IN THE SAME predicament as the Orator of Representatives in that the two top leadership contenders come from the same coalition. In the house, the main realization. The two rivals for the Senate presidency have likewise called out Industry Leader Juplo. Pimentel Jr., are both from the opposition.

Under the rules of both chambers, whoever scores out as the second highest candidate automatically becomes the minority leader in the Senate, the prospect of Gamboa ending up as minority leader is foremost upon for the opposition, who lightly lost a shoot for Rep. Rodolfo Fabian or Rep. Carlos Padilla. I imagine that as the opening of Congress nears, there will be frantic efforts to make it appear that there is unity in the opposition ranks. But the 13-member opposition is rather up with one candidate for the top post have failed so far, so it's possible that the minority leader would also be from the same coalition as the Senate chief.

The reason for this rather unusual situation, as Sen. Aquino Enrile noted, is presidential ambition. Three Liberal Party senators have said they would support Pimentel, and that they may be joined by two other senators. Their decision to back Pimentel, as the opposition leader would pose no threat to Sen. Mar Roxas, the LP's bet for 2010, who'll assume the party's leadership this November. On the other hand, LP independent Ilocos Pangilinan is rapport for his ambition to run for president in 2010, so who's a major threat to Roxas' presidential ambitions as well as to Sen. Panfilo Lacson's own.

* * *

The current bromance between Villar and Pimentel presents a real dilemma for the opposition. If all 13 opposition senators were to unite and vote for one candidate, the chamber is closer to control. But if Villar fails to get the votes of all his 12 opposition colleagues, he would need votes from administration senators to win, which won't be good for the opposition senators, especially since majority of them have signed a pact to remain independent and give it some breakers. For example, Lacson wants to review the Nepal hearings and grab the

Political Tidbits

BeBinde Olivares-Cimatu

blue ribbon Committee, while Trillanes wants to look into the "extra-judicial" killings.

It's hard to decide which deadlier leadership fight is more interesting at this point.

* * *

In the recent elections, Secretary Board member Nelly Nuria Villafuerte, former trade undersecretary for the international sector, was caught in a most unenviable situation: how to position herself in the three political fights between her husband, reelectionist Rep. Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur, and her son, reelectionist Gov. Luis Miguel Villafuerte. It appeared that the major Villar-Arroyo division of Kampi which is part of the administration coalition, wanted his son to run under Kampi instead of under Lakas, but the young man refused. Nelly said that as a wife and mother, she was trying her very to cope with the brewing battle between two people she loved.

What she did: Stopping away from politics. Nelly turned to writing a handbook that should help everyone who wants to know all about microfinance. Last April 1, barely two weeks from the start of the local campaign period, she finished the book. What an incredible coping mechanism this brilliant lady who was named valedictorian of the 10th College of Law Class '79 and 7th placer in the 1979 Bar exams, has shown us all. Congratulations, Nelly.

* * *

In her 430-page "Microfinance Handbook (Philippines)," her third book, Villafuerte writes about a field that is "no longer a business, but a world-wide movement" he powers that poor women can be lifted from poverty by pioneering Grameen Bank experiment in Bangladesh. Today, this experiment by US-trained economist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohammad Yunus, which began with his

Feeling like a winner

THE MAY 11 ELECTIONS GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO see up close the structure of our society and understand better why our society is in crisis and why corruption has become systemic. Against the advice of friends, I entered what may described as the "dirty" world of politics by running for the municipal council of Santiago, Quezon, under the Liberal Party. I decided to run on the supposition that at least the experience would give a few hard — experience of society's ugly impulses, which would be useful for my profession as a teacher. Indeed, the 45-day campaign period brought me face to face with many realities about our society that we normally don't see.

Every morning at

I started my day. I faced a queue of people with a variety of requests, mostly requesting for medical or burial assistance and occasionally for money to buy a gallon of kerosene/cooking stove. Once while I was waiting for my turn to speak, a man approached me and asked me to pay for his cash as she could pay her unpaid electric bills for two months. When I passed a group of young men playing basketball, they would tell me to wait (as they needed uniforms and t-shirt).

On board my motorcycle, I went to every barrio like a traveling preacher carrying a message of hope to anyone who cared to listen. I told my audience I would not play the game of patronage. If I did that just to get elected, I explained to them, I would be spending the next three years trying to recover whatever I spent during the campaign.

But that was not good enough for some voters. Their needs were immediate and short-term. They demanded cash. They could not think in terms of investments. They felt cautioned once they have vacuumed from a politician any cash they needed to feed their children at least for a day. That's why I suspect that politicians don't mind when would spread their cheer years in office.

There is perhaps no other country where economic calculation speaks something like P300 million to run a decent campaign for a position that pays only P80,000 a month. Whether he spends his own money or someone else's, it is certain that he will seek to recover whatever he can. And since there is no legal way of doing so, he will have to do that through illegal means. And this is where corruption starts.

This is a big problem because it is so intimately connected to our political system. We have a very high level of corruption but the majority of the people do not see it as a problem. What we have are elections in which there is every little possibility for serious socio-economic issues to emerge as leaders.

Why do we keep electing bad leaders? In the heart of the leadership crisis is the highly unequal distribution of wealth and power. There is a small minority that monopolizes the structures of opportunity and there is very little hope for people who live in the poor rural areas to advance. That is why people feel so hopeless. Most of our people remain poor and powerless, and those few leaders who can give them hope if and behind ministries and protection from opponents unabashedly.

If our didn't have a highly unequal society, we would see to electing bad leaders. We will not have leaders who do not have the same of preparation which, astrologer Max Weber has identified as one of the criteria for those considering a run for public office.

I think we have to be able to end the rule of rogue when the poor have become self-reliant and when they can obtain justice and protection through formal legal institutions. The problem, however, is how to get to this stage of economic sufficiency and political equality. We need leaders with a vision of development that is not based on the patronage politics. We need leaders who have the means of opportunity, that promises the economic and political dependence of the mass, and that strips the poor of their self-esteem and sense of hope.

We need leaders who can reach out people. Education is an important because it can help people to see the power in genuine citizenship. The leaders are those who are not reduced to rebuild our society's structure of opportunity.

When they came, I was not surprised by the results of the election when I found me outside the winners' circle. But I decided some experience is better than nothing, and I had just brought a single seat, or paid our budget or caused to my earned interest or made false claims. I talked to the and interviewed on issues and offered my own views and program of government. The candidate who landed first obtained more than 14,000 votes. But each of the 6,000 voters I obtained was the result of my personal effort. I received no money by lambang or influenced by free cigarettes. Other small things, like received to dirty and illegal tricks to get elected, might also have the same kind of voters but perhaps these candidates didn't have the capacity to distinguish between the economic and political. Whatever it is, it is the experience that I say that I felt like I had won. Together with the 6,000 unnamed voters. Maybe we can begin a movement to promote principled politics in our town.

Joseph Anthony D. Hernandez, 33, is sociology instructor at Manuel L. Quezon University, Foundation Candidate Inc. in Candelaria, Quezon, and an alumnus of the Ateneo Young Leaders Congress. He is studying for his master's degree in sociology at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Young Blood

Joseph Anthony D. Hernandez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the [illegible] something and below.—Ed.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the [illegible] something and below.—Ed.

India's new caste politics

CASTE, ONCE AGAIN, IS DETTING ITS MARION over India's policies. Cases based "reservations" (reserved places in education and government jobs for members of historically disadvantaged castes) are supposed to be India's version of "affirmative action." In India's case, however, the intention to extend the policy to administrative and educational institutions and the private sector.

Many consider India's increasing stubbornness along caste lines a welcome assertion of "identity" rising caste lines a welcome assertion of "identity" politics and politicians of all stripes almost unanimously hail the politics of caste identity as a move toward this equality. Some go as far as to argue that the recent rise of the lower castes in northern Indian politics and their subsequent ascendance by the central government amount to a silent revolution, and that the politics of caste is another and a subaltern against religious communalism.

The appalling injustice which the caste system has done and does, the glib sociological babble attached caste is a good indicator of socioeconomic deprivation requires no amended here. Indeed, the propagation of caste politics and caste-based policies by India's political leaders, and their acceptance, reflecting only small-sample surveys that can be grossly misleading in the extreme of a huge country characterized by tremendous diversity. Moreover, these studies typically just assume into the caste identity as the real point of reference.

Since India gained its independence, the government has automatically refused to collect information data on the socioeconomic aspects of caste. The huge amount of evidence available is thus limited to anecdotal evidence, sometimes reports of the politicians themselves or to data collected 1931 or 1901 (background). If data is a good indicator of deprivation now, it should have been very clearer in the past. But massive studies of the evidence—the only accessible macro-level

World View

Pradipta Chaudhury

quantitative data for the whole country—does not confirm caste as a clear indicator of deprivation.

For example, less than one-third of workers in the period followed their traditional caste occupations. Workers belonging to each caste pursued a wide variety of occupations, although agriculture provided the bulk of employment. Each caste contained a large number of landless laborers, cultivators, and landlords. While some castes concentrated on one, others were equally involved in a number of occupations. Access to literacy and to jobs in the government service and modern professions was limited to a small section of the population virtually irrespective of caste.

Access to land was uneven. Farmers, the single largest occupational group in most castes, with land each ranging from high to low, were highly differentiated in terms of the size of their operations. The size of holdings was similar for most upper castes and some lower castes. Thus, the economic status of households varied a great deal within each caste.

In any case, the majority of peasants belonging to any caste, upper or lower, were poor in their castes of low land rank, landless, prosperous cultivators and traders were found, some of whom actually paid income tax.

Consider the average economic position of the members of each caste in city groups. Ironically, most high ranking castes occupied high economic positions, and the majority of the "untouchable" castes were found in the lowest economic positions. In some regions, some lower castes occupy higher economic positions than high castes.

The most obvious fact in the data is the great similarity in the economic positions of castes ranking the same social rank. Such differences are particularly acute for middle-ranking castes, which are most called OBCs, and are observed in all parts of India. Even among the untouchables, some castes have higher incomes than others.

Among the middle-ranking agricultural castes, some had high economic status due to improved agriculture, favorable access to cheap irrigation and commercialization. Most other cultivating and artisan castes, ranging similarly in ranks in the 19 municipality were successful group, occupied much lower economic positions, which resulted in an amazing degree of heterogeneity among such. Moreover, in some regions, the lowest economic positions were occupied by some "backward" castes, not by untouchables.

Hence, caste has not been an indicator of material deprivation, even during the early decades of the 20th century. Nor has caste been a clear indicator that it is an economic deprivation for the social backwardness from which these castes have historically suffered that makes caste reservations necessary.

Rather, the whole population of the lower castes did not suffer from unequal degree of social handicap. Historically, the rank in each low caste resulted in social exclusion. Even in the upper castes, such as cultivating castes, the presence of dowries, and prevalence of widows remarrying. Sometimes, well-off sections of low-caste female were in favor over castes and managed to achieve higher economic positions. Some castes also succeeded in raising its rank in the social hierarchy.

By using caste as a criterion in public policy, India's government is effectively creating the individuals' and the poor equally, thereby converting benefits to the lower castes. This helps to explain why the lower castes to the ruling coalition, and keeps the poor divided along caste lines. But it is important not to argue that this does anything to eliminate poverty.

Pradipta Chaudhury, currently on diplomatic duty, is a professor in the Department of Economics, University of the London, School of Economics, is a professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Children of Frenchmen

ONE PECULIAR AND OFTEN OVERLOOKED feature of the France that elected Nicolas Sarkozy as its new president is its mix of primary optimism and chronic pessimism.

Consider this. France has the highest fertility rate in the European Union (just under two children per woman), even ahead of booming Ireland. Of course, that rate alone is not enough to sustain France's current population, but it's far more than Germany's 1.3 and not much below the equal to that of the United States. Yet, despite this, Frenchmen are both ignorantly show that the French are the most pessimistic of all Europeans when it comes to their country's future. The core is a lot that a people either want to forget or always their continued future as a nation go about unfluently building their private futures within their families?

Indeed, related to decades of governmental failure to curb massive unemployment, the French have increasingly withdrawn psychologically into the private from the political sphere to concentrate on their lives and leisure. Meanwhile, gardening, desire of all sorts are blossoming in today's France. Private associations, it seems, have replaced the once dominant parties and trade unions have left off.

But if the French have turned their backs on the public sphere, how are we to make sense of the record high participation in the recent presidential election, where more than 83 percent of voters turned out to vote in both rounds? How do we explain the passion aroused by the campaign and by Sarkozy himself, including the massive affirmation he received in the performance election?

Political history is messy, but we shouldn't be

World View

Jean-Paul Fitoussi and Eloi Laurent

the land of Rousseau and Jaurès, for the truth was in elsewhere: the French are not hopeless about politics; they are simply waiting for a great leader.

As a matter of fact, is one can be made that the French will never come to believe that the state is the answer to their problems, globalization or no globalization. The French will expect greater things from their government than from an integrated Europe or the boundless world.

We, the French are incorrigible lovers of the welfare state. Indeed, it is not the only reason that Sarkozy seems to understand this instinctively. His agenda appears to aim at domestic liberalization—moving beyond the 35-hour week, ending the special pension regimes accorded to particular professions, privatization—as an adaptation to the post-welfare state. But it also seeks protection from the differing effects of globalization, which probably will mean strong support for the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (despite the constant Anglo-Saxon trade liberalization) and the will to impose European standards on foreign goods.

Nevertheless, precisely because they care about the future of their numerous children, the French are much more miserable in some ways to notice their most conservatively bad politicians' generally manner. Secondary and higher education are rightly near the top of the agenda for all the new governments. But as are measures aimed at harnessing the state reforms to encourage entrepreneurship and boost economic dynamism such as public guarantees for housing and mortgage, and fiscal rebate for investment in small enterprises.

France is also in desperate need of a reality check on the nature of its current cultural divide. It had become clear that the real line of division is not between immigrants and French citizens but between Judeo-Christian secular politics. Besides, the nomination of a woman who is a North African descent as minister of justice made that clear from the start.

Most French mainstream fear their public spaces—the labor market, the workplace, housing, and education for instance—are controlled by their immigrants. France's immigrants tend, collectively, to have low incomes, make the least of France's social ills as much as top of an issue's. There is no greater task for Sarkozy than to open, from the inside, all doors to the offspring of others who, like his father, immigrated to France.

No matter no mistake about it. Sarkozy has not been elected to adopt France to an elusive global context. His mandate is much more demanding: he must reconcile France's public interests with its private passions.

Project Syndicate

Jean-Paul Fitoussi is professor of economics at Sciences po and president of Observatoire francais des conjonctures economiques (OFCE) in Paris. Eloi Laurent is a senior research fellow at OFCE.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the place where you're working and the company you work with. Unpublished entries throughout should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Educated unemployed

"The sad reality is that despite the growing demand for skilled workers in various industrial and vocational fields, many Filipino remain unemployed. Regrettably, a lot of them are educated Filipinos have college degrees; they have college diplome in areas that have no employment value."

—Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, pushing for tech-vo programs to meet thousands of jobs available in China, Inda

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Teachers should get higher salaries, more benefits

WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL year, the Filipino public school teacher, the "tenth caution" of the government, is back in harness.

This year, around half a million public school teachers are expected back in the classroom to mold the minds of some 20 million pupils and students in elementary and high schools nationwide. Aside from their classroom duties, they have to attend to a myriad of other community work, like the gathering of data on the health and living conditions of their pupils, this after the entire streaking and exhausting 16-hour pull assignment they just went through last May.

If they are underpaid, in effect, they sub-sidize public school education, each at the rate of at least P130,000 a year—all together, about P62 billion a year, or P600 billion since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency.

Worse, they are deprived of decent socio-economic benefits—the government merely advances to lump sum the equivalents of the teacher's dues—a few years pay, upon retirement, before he/she gets a measly monthly pension of P10,000-or-so on average.

Compare the teachers' retirement benefits to the congressmen's and senators' cushy goods harvest of P15 million and P20 million, respectively, a thick slice of which ends up in you know where. Elsa's forget other funds, such as the P720 million for-labor fund which funds congressmen pocketed to support the arroyo presidential bid in the fraudulent 2004 presidential elections.) Or to the more-million peso retirement benefits of the officials of the GSIS, SSS, Pagcor, PCSO and other government-owned corporations.

The sheer unfeasible exploitation of public school teachers must end. The teachers should be paid a just basic, monthly salary of at least P22,000, exclusive of allowances, to enable them to live a dignified life, in keeping with their noble profession.

The law that the Commission enjoins the total liberation of the Filipino teachers who have been treated like this and in hours of burden by governmentally corrupt administrations.

The incoming 14th Congress and the President have a constitutional and moral duty to immediately pass and approve into necessity the monthly salaries, allowances, retirement and other benefits of the Filipino public school teacher.

Our teachers deserve no less. They are the nation's real heroes who dedicate and sacrifice their lives, talents and personal happiness in the service of the Filipino people.

—**JOE HOLIDAY,**
president,
Silanan sa Pagsasanggol ng Demokrasyan,
Sarsuwang Pangmasa at mga Kolektyang Sibil,
681 Road ave., Kamagay East Apamiko, Waisdow City

STUDENT militants hold a demonstration against Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Cabinet revamp should start with Gonzalez's dismissal

I AGREE WITH GENERAL BEN Dumlao that the time has really come for President Macapagal-Arroyo to reorganize her Cabinet and get rid of the deadwood and crony anchors that only serve to pull down her administration.

The 19-member cast left in the May 14, 2007 political disaster (for her administration) has an opportunity and give her administration added buoyancy and better credibility by true simple expedients.

Number one on her list should be Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. This official became of the President's only successes in burning her administration such time he opens his mouth.

The Arroyo presidency will undoubtedly experience greater stability and better image once Gonzalez is thrown the curb down.

—**ARNOLD VINCENT MALAYA,**
provincial administrator, Iloilo,
bayanay@gmail.com

Goodbye to UP's 'Iskolar ng Bayan'

THE JUNE 8 INQUIRER EDITORIAL "TOO news story "Filipino delivers internal law graduation speech," it told about Filipino Oscar Franklin Tan earning the privilege of delivering the commencement address for Class 2007 of the Harvard Law School. What was striking to me, as a UP graduate and as a current UP professor, were the last two paragraphs in the Web version of the story which was not mentioned in the print version of the June 8, 2007 Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Tan modestly said all those lofty plans were all within his reach, thanks to his "exceptional blend of diplomat"—to combat humble mission for someone who got his head start in law at a state university like UP.

"Our studies were paid for by ourselves, our farmers and fisherwives, and I hope to one day pay my dues," Tan said."

Tan's statement recognizes and affirms his being an "Iskolar ng Bayan," meaning UP scholars is committed to change society for the taxpayers, and a UP graduate has an obligation to pay back that subsidy through service to the nation.

With the 300-percent tuition increase in UP starting this June 2007, the students in UP campuses in Luzon are paying an average of P25,000 per semester, a far cry from the average P8,000 per semester that non-UP students paid prior to the increase.

The full disaster the number of 2007 UPCAT passers who actually enrolled in UP and on their socio-economic profile are still out. But UP students who are paying tuition almost as high as that of UST and almost two-thirds of Ateneo's cannot be the "Iskolar ng Bayan" that UP alumni proudly call themselves.

As the UP Administration of President Emerlinda R. Roman continues to implement policies and programs that are in line with neoliberal policies on education mandated by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and the Presidential Committee on Educational Reform (PCER) which call for intensified investment promotion of state universities and colleges, Tan's statement on paying the dues owed to taxpayers farmers and fisherfolk might as well be the valedictory for UP's "Iskolar ng Bayan."

—**JUDY M. TAGUWALD,**
associate professor,
Department of Women's and Development Studies,
College of Social Work and Community Development,
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Baseless insult to US

THIS IS A BLUNDER TO BOO Taipei's June 20 move using the phrase "US Foreign administration has."

Taipei used that insult deliberately in his attempt to paint the United States of America in a bad light. Well, let's be honest as to its own upbeat. But Taipei slang his mind against America and then failed to back up his accusations with even just one single substantive point.

His whole tenor is limited the Arroyo administration, he said nothing about the United States, except for that above-mentioned slur.

Isn't it a basic foreign-negotiation practice to state one's point and then back it up with at least one supporting statement? Even lowly, several points of proof are necessary to make readers and state heads to agreement.

If Taipei wishes to rail against America, he should state some clear, concise facts to back up his wild accusations that the United States is using the unregistered killings for which Filipinos are poorly to blame.

—**RES VASCAS,**
Iriga City

GSIS scored for 'anomalous' policy of not paying back 'forfeited' contributions

I AM A VICTIM OF AN ANOMALOUS policy of the Government Service Insurance System.

I was employed as rural health physician of Aparri, Cagayan from Dec. 8, 1994 to Feb. 1, 2005. As a government employee, my monthly contribution to the GSIS was P1,780.35. This remained so until January 2006, which was raised to P1,819.27 per month. I had two years and two months of government service and as a member of the GSIS, my total contributions totalled P47,207.35.

When I surrendered my policy on May 31, 2007 to the GSIS Pulaski, Manila they paid me P1,278.42 as the cash surrender value of my policy.

Last June 5, I went to the GSIS main office at the CCP Complex in Pasay City to claim my benefits but, to my dismay, I was told that I was not entitled to any benefit, not even a refund of my contributions because I did not reach three years of service, which is required by a GSIS policy. This is anomalous because, when we were enrolled at GSIS members, we were not told about such policy. I'm sure I am not the only victim of this policy.

May I ask Mr. Winston Garcia, what does GSIS do with the "forfeited" contributions of members like me. Do they pay-to-the pockets of private individuals? I do hope to hear from him soonest.

—**HONORIO V. LALUAN III, MD**

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of issues and photos in the Inquirer, you may write to the Reader's Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Bgy. and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Mrs. 897-4760, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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3 generals urged to come out in the open

From page A1

Among them were officers in charge of operations, intelligence and civil-military relations, according to the informant.

The three Inquirer informants requested that their names not be published.

Brig. Gen. Ernesto Carolino said he suspected one of the generals who took part in the discussion was Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commanding general of the Philippine Army.

"It does not take a Sherlock Holmes to know when and where that command conference was held and who attended," Carolino said in a statement.

"Everybody knows Tolentino headed Southern Luzon Command at that time and among his henchmen was the President's favorite general, Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan."

Probe urged

Carolino, whose group had lost 132 members to political killings since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office in 2001, urged Malacañang to suspend Tolentino and have him investigated.

"It is Mr. Arroyo's duty, as Commander in Chief, to spearhead a swift, full-blown, no-holds-barred investigation based on the information given to media by three of her generals," he said.

The Inquirer sought Tolentino's reaction but it was Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres who released a statement for the Army.

Torres said the Army doubted the existence of the "alleged whistle-blower generals."

"The people that we know are brave enough to stand and face the consequences of their words and deeds. They do not hide behind the cloud of anonymity," Torres said.

The Army appealed to the public to be "wary discerning with the information coming their way."

Ms Arroyo's favorite

"Some of the information (it) dredged in some disloyalists in the ranks and weaklets disgruntled elements in the organization," Torres said.

Tolentino, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1974, was once described as Ms Arroyo's favorite general.

ARMY Chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino

He said that unless there was a "face" to these allegations and pending the result of a verification ordered by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the military would treat the reports as part "actions that could be manufactured by some interest groups with the intent of destroying the AFP."

Reacting to the military statement, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said he suspected one of the generals who took part in the discussion was Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commanding general of the Philippine Army.

"It does not take a Sherlock Holmes to know when and where that command conference was held and who attended," Casiño said in a statement.

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Tolentino, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1974, was once described by former Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor as a "known fighter the President is really hooked."

The human rights group Karapatan has listed at least 800 victims of political killings in Luzon alone since 2001.

"If it is true that a communal conference of Luzon commanders took place, then the number of deaths will show that the murderous, isolated, and the point of extrajudicial killings," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

AFP information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro called on the three anonymous generals to come out "with their allegations "so that there can be investigated."

An AFP concern

"Let's put a face to these allegations so that there would have some credibility," Bacarro told reporters.

He said that unless there was a "face" to these allegations and pending the result of a verification ordered by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the military would treat the reports as part "actions that could be manufactured by some interest groups with the intent of destroying the AFP."

Bacarro stressed the military was not ignoring the report as this was a "concern" for the AFP which wanted it clear its name.

He said this was why the military was conducting a verification and this was a "tedious process."

"It may be still be proven that they (the generals) exist...then we will see if they have committed certain violations pertaining to their acting of their (personnel) or grievances," he said.

Maharlika dismissed the claims of the unnamed generals.

Clear policy

Sec. Peter Sweatery Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang supported a summit being initiated by the Supreme Court to review rules that would help curb the killings of militants.

"We do not condone or speculations and anonymous and thus unverifiable information," Bunye said.

"The administration has a clear policy condemning solid-headed murders and other crimes," Bunye said.

Bunye also said: "Let me reiterate that we support all measures that will finally bring to an end these extrajudicial killings and I've said that we support the special summit that's being proposed by the Supreme Court so let's all work together to put an end to these killings."

Bunye also said that the military was "more than willing to cooperate in whatever proceedings that will happen to be a summit."

The Philippine National Police said it was willing to join such a summit.

PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said all sectors involved must come together and get a better perspective of killings.

Generals must come out

Senators urged the generals to come out in the open and help in in political killings to come out.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the three anonymous generals "should follow the lead of Gen. (Francisco) Gudani who went to the Senate and divulged what he knew about cheating."

Gudani is currently facing court-martial for appearing in the Senate in defiance of Ms Arroyo's orders and testifying about alleged cheating during the 2004 presidential elections.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the revelation by the generals, albeit unnamed, had bolstered the findings of the Melo Commission, the human rights arm of the United Nations and the European Commission that the AFP or some of its elements could be held responsible either as perpetrators or for their inability to stop these killings.

"If these three generals have the AFP and their country, they must come to the open and provide necessary information that will allow the government to adopt corrective measures," said Biazon. With reports from Jaime Laude, Jamaine Punay, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alexis Pages

Cell phones more precious than wedding rings—Nokia

From page B1

A recent study by Nokia has found that people are becoming more emotionally attached to their cell phones.

"A phone is more than just a piece of technology—you take it everywhere, call it intimate things and it can even reflect your mood and personality," the study said.

Incorporating the findings of a study on human behavior into the design of cell phones partly explains people's emotional connection to the hand-held communication device.

The mobile phones that Nokia creates do not attempt to factor the new "in thing," but are dictated by the needs of people and their drive to communicate, Mary Newman, senior design manager of Nokia International Insights, said during the annual Nokia Connections event here last week.

"We try and prioritize concepts which are relevant to the people. Ours we have an understanding of what, how and why people are communicating, we start to design," he said in an interview with reporters.

Streets of China

Concepts that have been used in a phone design, application or design may have been an idea picked up from the streets of China, on the outskirts of Uganda or the home of an illiterate family in India.

The mobile giant has been spending millions of euros sending its design research teams of more than 200 people in various countries to understand human behavior, hoping to find ideas on how a communication device could meet a global market demand with different cultures, lifestyles and languages.

Shadowing people

Jan Chipchase, Nokia's human behavioral researcher, who went to more than 15 countries to 2006 plus "shadowing" people—or "studying with permission" as he called it—has a treasure trove of trivia gathered from his studies and research.

"Shadowing can tell you things that people do. We go out there and try to capture what is in a day in the life [of ordinary people]. We observe the little details of life," Chipchase said.

For instance, he noted how groups of people dining in restaurants always divided among themselves the bare piece of food at the end of the meal.

"Nobody takes the whole thing. The object has a half-life. (This) could apply to how people share the digital contents of their cell phones," Chipchase said during a media presentation.

Phones miss incoming phone calls more than ours because they prefer to keep their mobile phones in their handbags, his team's study also found.

Women miss incoming calls

Sixty-one percent of the women keep their phones in their bags while 66 percent of the men carry their phones in their trousers' right pocket, Chipchase said.

Men who carry their phones in a belt pouch tell something about their age or their waist size—they are usually old, said the Tokyo-based art bricoleurist.

"This shift can also be explained by an increase in waist sizes over time for males risking pockets a less feasible destination," Chipchase said on his website.

Straps

While mobile straps are a trend in some Asian countries (South Korea, China and Japan), the idea appears absurd in Los Angeles and New York.

One possible explanation for this, Chipchase noted, could be that gang usage among customers in "collection zones" was also "obvious way of projecting oneself and one's values."

These findings—based on a study Chipchase's team conducted on phone carrying and personalization between 2005 and 2006 in 18 locations—could be used in coming up with new phone designs.

New phone features to address the high missing incoming calls among women and the convenience of having a strap attached to the phones could be developed from these findings, he said.

A total of 1,348 respondents were interviewed for the study that was conducted in Milan, New York City, Los Angeles, Tehran, Kampala, (New Delhi, Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and Abu.

The finding that one of every five cell phone users would rather lose his or her wallet, credit cards or wedding ring than his or her unit came from a survey of 1,000 people aged between 16 and 35 in early 2006. The survey was conducted in 13 countries.

Model for illiterates

Earlier, Nokia released a cell phone model featuring more icons or pictures instead of letters to give people who cannot read and write more access to cell phones.

The company released the model after a four-year study on how illiterate people communicate that included several trips to India.

"We don't just churn out phones. We try to understand what people do ... how people use their phones by spending time in their homes," Chipchase said.

His group, however, has not conducted any study in the Philippines, which prides itself as the world's texting capital. The group intends to visit the country some time next year.

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Across the NATION

Bossi kin ask gov't not to use force

THE FAMILY OF CAPTIVE ITALIAN PRIEST Giancarlo Bossi appealed to the Philippine government not to use military force in securing the priest's release, according to cable news network ABC.

The ABC report, sent from Italy, said the appeal was made during a rally attended by about 3,000 Italians and Filipinos in Italy to press for Bossi's release by his captors, believed to be Islamic militants in the remote province of Zamboanga Sibugay in Mindanao.

The appeal came as a top military officer working on the priest's release said Bossi's abductors allowed no negotiator, quoting an intermediary.

Marine Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino said a group claimed to have received a call from Bossi's abductors early Monday.

"There is a group that has appounded me, but I am not negotiating them until they can produce proof of life," Dolorfino told The Associated Press, describing the group as concerned citizens tapped by local leaders to help the military find Bossi.

Dolorfino said the abductors must quickly prove that Bossi is alive by allowing the priest to phone him or any of his family officials. The rescuers promised to relay Dolorfino's message to the abductors.

Dolorfino said he believes Bossi is still alive and being held near the boundary of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte provinces.

The 57-year-old missionary from Milan was snatched in neighboring Zamboanga Sibugay province on June 10 while on his way to celebrate Mass.

Dolorfino said no ransom has been discussed, but the outlaws asked for money to buy goods and for boats, who suffer from hypertension.

Dolorfino said Moro National Liberation Front rebels, who have ears on the ground and are instrumental in helping free Bossi, continued to communicate their forces to the area where Bossi is believed to be held.

Bossi's fellow Italian priests in Mindanao have also become head Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions said they have not been contacted by the abductors.

There was speculation in the local media that the abductors were in touch with the mission because a picture showing a white man's feet in a grassy area next to a rifle was posted on a Philippine pay-by-by-the-minute.

"We do not have any information about the picture," Father Fabio Bossi, Sebastian Dambis said. "We concluded that somebody put this there on their own initiative, but there is no connection with this case."

Foreign Affairs officials in Manila and Mindanao also offered to help.

Isabela Governor Benjamin Dy, outgoing governor of Lanao del Norte, said the area of Bossi in her province were prepared to help "in any way."

But she said reports that Bossi was moved out of the Zamboanga Peninsula could be a diversionary tactic.

Some officials said the best hiding place for Bossi and his kidnappers would be the Lignasan Marsh.

In Zamboanga City, Datuk Bhar-Ill Mohsin Jakiddi, a relative of Abdulla Abubakar alias Commander Robbie, the main suspect in the Bossi abduction, said the man authorities are blaming for the kidnapping "has been dead for almost five years now."

"If the military and police are pursuing the same person, then they are pursuing a dead suspect," Jakiddi said.

Jakiddi, a former Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) leader in the Zamboanga Peninsula, said Abubakar was killed in an Army checkpoint in Barangay Tigbalangang, Tungawan town, also in Zamboanga Sibugay, in 2003.

But Senior Supt. Francisco Castañeda, police chief of Zamboanga Sibugay, said Abubakar is "very much alive and directly involved in the kidnapping of Father Bossi."

Castañeda said the military has confirmed earlier reports that Abubakar had been killed but are on the kidnapping. Charlie Inducan and Jaile Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Canvass board of Isabela sacked; new members eyed

MUD MAN
A devotee of St. John the Baptist in Barangay Bliss Int, Aliaga, Nueva Ecija goes to the reservoir via field to get mud all over his body. They call it Sibidad mud festival, a yearly tradition to honor the town's patron saint. In the streets, people march as locals leave while some marched on the sidelines giving alms to the mud people.

Robber slain; cop, boy hurt as gangsters attack police

Tree cutting threatens Mt. Pulag forests

By Dolmar Cyrille
Inquirer Northern Luzon

Groups assail permit given to coal plant in Iloilo town

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

NO CLEAN coal plant. Carbon emissions, such as this coming from a coal plant in Cebu's Barangay, are among the factors seen in global warming.

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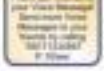

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Aplus METRO
Editor Rose G. Cipriano

Chemical leak downs 27 in Pasig City

By Kristine L. Alave

TWENTY-SEVEN PERSONS, 20 vending duwe babies and three pregnant women, were rushed to the hospital yesterday after an acetylene tank in a junk shop in Pasig City leaked and caused an explosion.

The blast released fumes that rendered it dizziness, nausea and difficulty in breathing in the victims.

Pasig City fire, police and environment officials rushed to the Spider Junk Shop at 6 Mercedes Ave., Barangay Caniogan after they received reports of a chemical leak in the area.

FO1 Salvador Norbeto, city fire department investigator, said the incident occurred at about 9:20 a.m. while two junk shop workers were trying to open the tank with a metal cutter. The sparks and chemicals from the metal cutter mixed with the fumes, leading to an explosion, Norbeto said, adding that the workers had no idea what the tank contained.

A Tentani, 901 Roberto Bonifacio, was also treated at the hospital, along with the two junk shop workers. Based on the symptoms exhibited by the victims and the characteristics of the chemical, investigators said the tank may have contained chlorine gas.

"The victims had difficulty breathing and experienced dizziness. It's nothing serious, but some of them needed to go to the emergency room," Raquel Mariangeles, city environment officer-chief, said. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chlorine can be pressurized and cooled to change it into liquid form for easier storage and shipping. When it is released, it quickly turns into gas with a pungent and irritating odor and spreads quickly.

Supt. Fredi Uyanis, Pasig police chief, said they are investigating the incident, adding that the owner could face charges if found negligent.

Norbeto said the junk shop owner, Roberto Custodio, had already coordinated with ambulance and visited the victims in the hospital.

Mariangeles said she had ordered the closure of the junk shop, noting that it violated a

CHEMICAL, A20

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2 shabu warehouses busted in Manila, Rizal

By Alcuin Papa and Kristine L. Alave

PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT Agency (PDEA) agents raided earlier this month two shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) warehouses in Rizal province and Manila and seized millions of pesos worth of chemicals and equipment used to make the drug.

Officers of the local task force based in Sampaloc, Manila and Rizal province conducted simultaneous raids on the warehouses on June 1 and 2, PDEA said.

Police arrested Jaime Ang Ty, 46, and Jimmy Ang Ty, 42, during the raid in Rizal province. They were charged with violating Republic Act No. 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Ang Ty, who is also known as Jimmy Ang Lim, is the brother of Jaime Ang Ty, PDEA said.

Police also arrested Jaime Ang Ty and Jimmy Ang Ty in a raid on a warehouse in Sitio Gago, Barangay San Jose in Binan, Laguna, in 2005, PDEA said.

Police also seized 1,000 chemicals and laboratory equipment during the raid in Binan, PDEA said.

Another warehouse in Barangay Bagumbayan in Binan, Laguna was also raided in 2005, PDEA said.

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EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Harlon Guevarra cradles his younger brother, Michael, born as victim his name during the start of classes in the Mendez Daycare Center at the Parola Compound in Tondo.

New tutors, annex greet Ducat's Tondo wards

By Allison W. Lopez

THEIR "SIR DUCAT" MAY STILL be jailed, but for around 400 children of the Mariano Ducat Center in Manila's Parola compound, it's back to school once again.

Dusted in small plastic chairs suited for their tiny frames, the uniformed children waited patiently as their teachers busied and their teachers started about for the early morning program yesterday that signaled the start of classes. Local dancer-comic Manuel and reside celebrant (memory of the ballad episode in March, when 26 wards, some based in the center, and those inside it were both made a bus by the Ducat's owner, Armando "Jun" Ducat.

The kids were welcomed and feted after 10 hours, but the women Ducat and his companion Carmie Carbonell were charged with various illegal detentions, a nonbailable offense. The two are now detained at the City Jail.

"I don't think they did anything wrong. Maybe they just wanted to express their sentiments in the government," said Agnes Cabuguason, mother of one of the locked-up children.

Cabuguason was very satisfied, as parents who blame their kids support behind the hostage taker by executing affidavits that they were not interested in using them.

She said her 7-year-old daughter, a Grade 1 student at the Nonoco Almario Elementary School in Tondo, was doing "okay" and did not seem to be affected by the incident.

She said she and her husband eventually forgave Ducat. "He's innocent and also helped many children," Cabuguason added.

This year, the daycare center admitted 420 students, surpassed with last year's 380, added two teachers to their staff, and has received a two-day nod to accommodate the growing number of students.

3 car theft suspects shot dead in QC shootout

By Jeannette I. Andrade

POLICE SAID THEY FOILED A plot to rob a bank in Pampanga with the death of three men — believed to be members of a gang involved in car theft and robberies — during a shootout in Quezon City yesterday.

One of those killed was identified as Noldy Santonio. The other two were given described as between 25 and 30 years old, 5'5" and 5'6" tall.

The three were on board a Honda Civic with license plate SEP, when they came to a checkpoint manned by members of the Traffic Management Group-7 Task Force Limbas who were conducting anti-car theft operations at the corner of Boni Serrano and Katipunan Avenue at 3 a.m. Instead of stopping, the men drove past and the police gave chase.

At the corner of Katipunan Avenue and Aurora Boulevard, the men in the car reportedly shot at the policemen who returned fire.

Recovered from the van were license plates, a caliber .45 pistol, an M-16 rifle, two cellular phones and two black hooded caps with the word "Police" printed on them.

Also recovered was a shotgun in the SM San Fernando mall in Pampanga with the Banco De Oro branch clashed with the court "target."

Based on the group's plans, 14 men would carry out the robbery on a Friday, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The plan also indicated where the 24 men were supposed to be positioned, their escape route and where the getaway motorcycles were to be parked. The group also even indicated where each armed was supposed to be picked up after the heist.

A man who identified himself as Joseph Sarmiento later told the police that he was the owner of the Honda Civic that was taken from him at gunpoint by armed men on June 22 on Roxas Boulevard.

DID YOU KNOW

A SPRIGGUN was discovered in the opening on June 21, 1881 of the Old Bilibid Prison in which it became of the increasing number of prisoners. The penitentiary was formally set in 1865 in Muntinlupa, and was renamed New Bilibid Prisons.

NBP had once housed some 9,000 inmates, but 814 hardcore were shipped to a boarding project of the Department of Justice. As of October 2004, the NBP has 19,747 prisoners.

Cyril J. Bautista's Inquirer Research

Actor, wife nabbed in Taguig shabu session charged

By Julie M. Aurelio

THREE DAYS AFTER THEY WERE arrested for allegedly engaging in a shabu session, actor Bing Davao and wife Brenda were charged in the Taguig City Prosecutor's Office yesterday for drug-related offenses.

The couple, along with two others, were arrested on Friday night in an apartment in Makati's Village, Taguig City. Armed [illegible] Station were there [illegible] of suspected shabu.

Insp. Arnel Ron, city police [illegible] chief, said the couple and the two others suspects [illegible] shabu paraphernalia and [illegible] drugs and drug paraphernalia.

He said the last time [illegible] the police that the couple had been detained in the city police station three [illegible] Friday night.

"In fact, they are still keeping mum about the incident," he added.

Davao, the eldest in [illegible] Ricky Davao and son of actor Charlie Davao, has refused to comment on his arrest.

But said the police have yet to verify reports linking Police to Junior Davao. Rosanna, the legal spouse of the [illegible] boasting shabu dens raided in Taguig City in 2006.

METROBRIEFS

MJ's estranged live-in partner has new lawyer

AFTER successfully defending Tondo rape victim "Kristel," lawyer Evelyn Ursal will be representing Kristel's live-in partner Gerry Ganibe. Ursal has filed a motion for reconsideration in the [illegible] order last Wednesday [illegible] Taguig City Regional Trial Court [illegible] Lorna Kapunan withdrew from the case. "[illegible] to commit to [illegible] myself on June 12 [illegible] at the Taguig City court. She [illegible] asked some middle aged [illegible]," Erlinda Ursal, the lawyer of Jennifer, claimed over the phone yesterday. Kapunan confirmed that she [illegible] a short message to the lawyer. The message read, "Yes, we filed [illegible] Thursday." The sites said that she had been surprised by Ursal's [illegible] withdrawal from the case. "I read [illegible] on the [illegible] newspaper," Kapunan said. Ursal was not available for comment [illegible] Jennifer, claiming she was a victim of physical and psychological abuse for [illegible] two decades they lived together.

John Bryan Ulanday

Binay to MMDA: Heed SC decision

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday urged the Metro Manila Development Authority to heed the Supreme Court decision defining the limits of the agency's powers. "The [illegible] cannot enforce ordinances by itself," Binay said. Binay, a former MMDA chief, was reacting to last week's decision recently issued by the SC. The [illegible] prohibits the MMDA from [illegible] without the LGUs' consent. The agency has no power to legislate. "Binay said in order to implement MMC ordinances, the mayors would ask their local councils to enact [illegible] ordinances and operate. He said, "MMDA Day [illegible] to make sure that it [illegible] is the law. As public officials, we should set [illegible] by obeying the law," Binay added. "The point of improving the traffic situation is [illegible] and fighting criminality. We are [illegible] ordinances [illegible]," the mayor said.

Jo Tan

Chemical leak downs 27 ...

► newspage A-11

number of safety and environment regulations.

He noted that abandoned tanks in the junk shop area not properly labeled and that the workers did not follow the correct disposal procedures. Officials have already confiscated off the junk shop for safety purposes.

Court grants 60-day reprieve to Baclaran community

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS granted a 60-day temporary restraining order (TRO) preventing the evictions of residents who have stayed behind at the demolition area in Baclaran, Pasay City.

It also ordered a stop to the further demolition of the remaining shanties and the invasion in the area owned by the Philippine Reclamation Authority.

The appellate court's Fifth Division issued the order after the residents, through Adelbrano Tumambing, filed a petition for a TRO. The case was handed by a Pasay City court.

"The respondent PRA, through its general manager and CEO Atty. Alvin Domingo, any other agency or their duly authorized representatives, are ordered to desist from demolishing petitioners' houses, structures, and storage and renting their structures," the order from the appellate court, said the order signed by Associate Justice Hakim Abdulwahid.

On June 7, the PRA tore down the shanties of the residents of the Muslim community, who had started on fighting for their Grand Mosque which also faces the threat of demolition.

"We are confident that the people cannot be removed now with the TRO's issue as without a relocation area," lawyer Ferdinand Alfonso, who is representing the residents, told a press conference in Pasay City yesterday.

Now, who's unethical?

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo really meant it when she said last June three years in office would be spent leaving a legacy.

Within one week, not even people were dropping the names of her relatives with Presidential [illegible] Group (PAIG) chief Ariosto Ybiñas for the release of seized cargoes, the President was spotted as having said, "Ayaw ni Ben."

Mr. Arroyo particularly singled out a certain supposedly very close to his son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo, for using his name.

A Filipino-Chinese, alleged by some sources for using the Presidential husband's name, was also emotional during her meeting with Ybiñas recently.

She said the Chinese's undocumented shipments should be seized, and if there's evidence for seized them, he should be charged in court.

Recently 200 containers, believed to be filled with grossly undeclared or undeclared goods, are being held at the ports by the BOC.

They still seem be opened for inspection.

A ship loaded with steel pipes that were allegedly undeclared as steam pipes is also being held by the BOC.

Now, if these containers will be released after proper taxes and duties are paid to the government, would the smugglers will have owned brought panning their trade.

* * *

Who is this Court of Appeals justice allegedly holding regular lunch meetings with his "friends" at a five-star hotel a few meters away from the appellate court building?

"Chenot" refers to litigants or their lawyers who bring pending cases to the justice's division.

The justice reportedly talks

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

business with the clients, which is downright unethical and immoral.

It's like President Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly telling with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to "protect" her votes during the counting for the 2004 presidential elections.

* * *

Jess Makalintal, spokesperson for Metrobank Water Services, says Qualibet was being "unethical" when it came out publicly with the results of a study that showed water in Metro Manila was dirty.

Makalintal was talking out of line because Metrobank owns [illegible] Qualibet is conducted the study.

It would have been a different thing altogether if Qualibet, after being commissioned by Maynilad to conduct a study, made the results public.

Qualibet, a private testing agency, was hired by private individuals.

* * *

Giant network ABS-CBN is trying to discredit Qualibet in its news and public affairs programs.

The network gets the side of the testing agency when it benefits the testing agency all right.

However, it seems to deliberately edit out the most important points the agency has to say in defense of its findings, making the agency appear like the villain.

Why?

* * *

Persons who sell fake medicines should be punished to the full extent of the law.

A Chinese-Filipino businessman who owns a drugstore in Chinatown was allegedly behind the importation of fake Chinese medicines seized by government agents recently.

This Chinoy allegedly bought the fake Chinese medicines and sold them without permission from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

It seems BFAD is dragging on its job.

I recall a businessman who sold fake drugs in the 1980s also was killed by Manila policemen in an alleged shootout.

The officers who led in the slaying of the businessman said the latter deserved to die because he committed a heinous crime.

I fully agree.

Selling fake drugs that could result in a patient's death is a heinous crime.

Blair formally hands over Labour leadership

BRITISH PM Tony Blair introduces his successor, Gordon Brown, during a special Labour leadership meeting in Manchester, England June 24. —

GAZA HOSTAGE
BBC employees raise a banner on a power of their kidnapped colleague Alan Johnston in London, June 25, when the BBC Gaza correspondent spent his 100th day in captivity. Johnston appeared on a video June 25 with a hands strapped to his body warning that his captors would see it as if any attempt was made to rescue him. —

US managers seek more visas for hi-tech workers

Liberia's Taylor again boycotts resumption of war crimes trial

TAYLOR: Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor in a September 1990 photo. —

Suicide blasts kill 23 in Iraq

Tuna shortage spurs sushi panic in Japan

Chinese woman recounts sex slavery horror under Japanese

EYEWITNESS: Peng Peiying

The WORLD

Edito Lorenzo B. Quinto

6 UN soldiers killed in Lebanon blast

SPANISH UN soldiers carry their dead comrades killed by a roadside bomb explosion in the southern Lebanese Phoenicia Wednesday June 24. AFP

KHIAM, LEBANON—SECURITY WAS BOOSTED IN south Lebanon on Monday after a bomb attack killed six UN peacekeepers, further rattling security in the country where the army has been battling Islamist militants for weeks.

Spanish Defense Minister José Bono, whose troops were in southern Lebanon visiting his country's troops, called Sunday's blast, which killed three Spaniards and three Colombians, a terrorist attack.

It was the first fatal attack reported on peacekeepers since the 1978 force in Lebanon's southern area expanded last year in the wake of a devastating 34-day war between Israeli troops and the Hezbollah Shiite militia.

Security in the deeply divided country has already been shattered by a month-old battle between the army and al-Qaeda-inspired Fatah al-Islam militants in northern Lebanon, and a string of bomb attacks in and around Beirut.

No one has claimed the UN attack, but Lebanese political sources have told AFP that captured fighters from Fatah al-Islam have threatened attacks on peacekeepers.

A Lebanese security source said the car bomb was detonated by remote control as the peacekeepers' armored vehicle passed by, in the Marjayoun-Khiam valley, an area about 15 km from the Israeli border.

A Spanish colonel said it was a "well-planned attack."

"The attack was very well prepared in advance," the officer said at the scene. "The bodies of two of the victims were blown several meters by the force of the blast."

Until commander Maj. Gen. Alberto Asarta of Italy said the bombing was aimed at destabilizing the region.

"It's not an attack against Lebanon and Unifil only but against the stability of this region. This attack has made Unifil more committed to fulfill its mission in southern Lebanon," he said in a statement.

In Madrid on Sunday, Aznar will be more confrontational, saying "aggressors and will continue to support the United Nations Unifil mission." Unifil first deployed in Lebanon in 1978 after an Israeli invasion but was expanded from some 2,000 members after the July-August war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas who dominated the south of the country. AFP

N. Korea says it's ready to move on nuke deal

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA SAID on Monday that the standoff over frozen funds had been resolved and it would now start negotiating a nuclear disarmament deal with the US in February.

The first step would be to hold discussions in Pyongyang on Tuesday with officials of the UN nuclear watchdog on shutting down the country's nuclear facilities, North Korea's KCNA news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesperson as saying.

"At the bank fair had been taken at Macau's Banco Delta Asia have been transferred to or deposited, the troublesome issue of the frozen funds is finally resolved," he said.

He said there could now be "favorable ambit." "As part of that, there will be discussions with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegates from 26 in Pyongyang on starting down a path of shutting and inspections and monitoring."

Earlier, Russia's Interfax news said $25 million, frozen after the United States accused North Korea of laundering illicit funds for the exclusive country, had been transferred to Pyongyang.

North Korea had refused to honor the close monitor deal and deal struck by six countries until it got its money back.

That breakthrough came in an IAEA inspector arrived in China on his way to North Korea, where he hopes to arrange the return of officials to monitor its shutdown of the Yongbyon reactor.

The reactor is the centerpiece of North Korea's nuclear program and source of weapons-grade plutonium.

In exchange for the shutdown, impoverished North Korea will receive fuel aid and other benefits, including steps to lift years sanctions, including over $15 billion in US-led sanctions of terrorism. Reuters

VEHICLES pass through the ancient minarets of Herat in this Jan. 31, 2002 photo. The country's newfound love for relics of war but risk being toppled by road's traffic — the last five medieval minarets are being slowly shaken to dust. AFP/File

Cars, not war, may finally topple Afghan minarets

By Mark Benedick

HERAT, AFGHANISTAN—THEY survived three decades of war but not being toppled by road traffic—the last five medieval minarets of Herat are being slowly shaken to dust.

The minarets are all that remain of what was once a wonder of art and architecture, a brilliantly decorated complex of Islamic learning and devotion on the Silk Road in western Afghanistan.

Little more than a mercury ago, more than a dozen of these minarets poured over the ancient city of Herat, part of a madrassa mosque complex built in the 15th century by the daughter-in-law of the all-conquering mogul emperor Timur.

Size and neglect have now toppled most of the central crowd, and brick towers, which were once decorated to sparkling blue, green, white and black mosaic tiles, crashing heights of more than 30 meters and shining out across the desert.

But after 28 lost forces restored the Taliban from national power in 2001, a relative amount of both peace and prosperity has returned to Herat and there are hopes that they can be preserved.

But there is one big problem traffic.

Trucks and cars rumble along a busy road that runs right through the middle of the group of remaining minarets, shaking the ground and sending tremors through their foundations.

If it is not closed, there are fears that any of the minarets could crumble or fall in the coming years and decades.

One of them is already on a precarious tilt.

"In the past five years, we tried to block the road going close to the minarets. But luckily, we succeeded and blocked the road—for a little bit," said Mohammadullah Ajmal, who runs the Cultural Ministry's historical monuments office in Herat.

But residents objected and the provincial government, unable or unwilling to invest in a road diversion, backed down, he said.

The road remained.

The government has also a commitment regarding preserving the minarets, but still no one that the government has not finished the road," said Ajmal, who keeps a small office in a niche of another of Herat's minarets, the Fidar Mosque.

The Afghan government has submitted the old city of Herat, including the minarets, as a candidate for listing as a World Heritage site. This would put Herat in the same class as China's Great Wall, the pyramids of Egypt and the Acropolis of Athens.

In Herat, both citizens and provincial governments support the closure of the road to preserve the minarets, but in reality there is insufficient political will to do so.

The road has not only increased speed, it has set traffic here soldered in the past few years, said Brendan Cassar, a culture consultant for Unesco, the UN body that works with national governments to preserve sites of world cultural significance. Reuters

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SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisores Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiaa

Team Pilipinas close to peak form–Reyes

GREY MUSH IS CONFIDENT THAT HIS 16th Miguel Oliver Philippine basketball squad will be in the shape it aspires for when the Pilipinas Men's Championship opens around.

"Right now, we're getting close to being competitive," said Reyes.

The head coach of the national squad predicted that after the Jones Cup and the basketball-crazy hosted by the country next month, the FIBA guys will be more than ready to do battle with Asia foes during the Blue Asia vs Tokushima, Japan.

Reyes said the Nationals, who will be hooked with the Chinese, Iranians and Australians in Group A of the Blue Asia, were only 10-15 percent prepared for the competition after the Southeast Asian Basketball Association champs embarked.

After their fruitless stint, Reyes said the team has required extra time to put behind an upset first the new skills it learned after being roughed up by Silver and Seiffert Apostasia during third week's long training camp in Belgrade.

After Belgrade, I think we're now 20 percent more than being ready," said Reyes.

A "killer" schedule of nine straight games awaiting with six early confrontations with a United Rides team on July 2 awaits the Nationals in the Jones Cup.

TEAM A24

PERFORMANCE, SAFETY, STYLE

2008 GRAND VITARA 2.7 V6

A combination of refined on-road handling and rugged off-road performance
In 2005, the Suzuki Grand Vitara was reborn, ushering in a new generation of Suzuki vehicles. It took its cue from the iconic original SUV, but added refinements to suspension and drivetrain tuning that would result in new levels of refinement and style at a value-packed price tag. 2007 the Suzuki Grand Vitara is ready to impress on challenging off-road trails and driving around town with a powerful 2.7 liter V6 engine, advanced chassis design and available four wheel drive, an extensive list of safety features and interior amenities and exterior styling. Inside and out.

Standard DOHC V6 Power and Available four-Wheel Drive System
The standard 2.7 liter V6, four valve DOHC engine delivers 166 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 181 ft/lbs at 4,400 rpm. The engine uses the Grand Vitara's low variety of 5,000 pounds-enough to haul light recreational equipment with or without optional trailer. Smartly tuned exhaust gives The Grand Vitara a throaty roar when accelerating, controlled. Five speed automatic transmission. Very capable off-road, it is equipped with an excellent approach angle, departure angle, and 7.9 inches of ground clearance, or 8 inches for rear wheel drive models.

The Grand Vitara also offers a sophisticated available four-Mode full-time four-wheel drive system with two-speed transfer case. On the road, drivers have the security of full-time four-wheel traction. Off the road, a console mounted switch allows the driver to engage the center differential lock. If the going is really slow the driver can select the Low-4L Lock mode for low speed power over traction.

Advanced Structural Engineering and Chassis Design
All Grand Vitara models feature a new lightweight yet rigid unibody construction with a built in ladder frame to offer the best of both worlds - a refined on-road ride and the rugged off-road performance expected from Suzuki 4WDs. The resources to develop with Nissan and Mitsubishi Motors Corporation - the Grand Vitara is front and a coach and design in the car - to provide optimal handling both on-road and off-road. The Grand Vitara also features large vented front disc brakes and rear drum brakes - and power assisted rack and pinion steering.

Uncompromised Safety Features
Every Grand Vitara models is fitted with active safety features, including ABS with electronic brake force distribution (EBD) and Electronic Stability Program (ESP) including traction control. The ESP uses a variety of electronic sensors to measure vehicle speed, steering wheel angle and yaw. This information is sent to a central controller that can intervene to reduce engine power and apply individual brakes to help maintain control in emergency maneuvers. Brake assist (BA) and optional curtain airbags for driver and front passenger are standard equipment. Driver and front passenger dual-stage, dual-threat airbags supplemental restraint system (SRS), advanced seat-belt pre-tensioners, front passenger weight-sensing front passenger airbag (WS) and front and rear side curtain airbags.

The three-point driver and front passenger seat belts feature shoulder height adjustment. In the rear, each passenger is provided with a three-point seat belt system and a headrest. The rear child seat is ISOFIX system (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) along with seat belt child safety lock pin designed to help prevent loosely fastened seats. The innovative system can be used only with built in seats. Some provides unsurpassed protection, with minimum user interference with the safety belts of a child restraint. Collision padding and front and rear side impact bars have designed to help maintain the integrity of the passenger compartment.

In the event of a collision with a pedestrian, the hood is designed to absorb some of the impact and help protect against serious head injuries. The front and rear fog lamps can enhance discerning meaning but may reduce the possibility of serious fog injuries.

Study Sophisticated yet Vibrant Versatile Functionality
Grand Vitara offers ample interior space for driver and passenger comfort and 60/40 split fold of storage space with the seats up to 1,664 cubic feet of storage space when the rear seats are folded down. Grand Vitara 3-door models offer 1,664 liters of cargo space with seats folded forward. With the rear seats in their upright position, 3-door models offer 1,664 liters of cargo space. Grand Vitara 5-door models offer 1,664 liters of cargo space with seats folded forward. With the rear seats in their upright position, 5-door models offer 1,664 liters of cargo space. Grand Vitara is manufactured ISO/TS16949 compliant with material storage. The Grand Vitara also features a standard AM/FM/CD/MP3 compatible audio system with steering wheel mounted audio controls, and an available six disc CD changer with six speakers including two tweeters and a subwoofer.

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Greenhills knocks out St. Joseph

GREENHILLS LADY SPIKERS KNOCKED OUT St. Joseph Quezon City, 25-10, 20-25, 25-13, to advance to the cross-over quarterfinal round of the 3 of Shakey's Girls' Volleyball League (SGV) Tuesday at the Ateneo Blue Satellite Gym.

St. Joseph also bowed to hosther B rep. satellite Ateneo High School, 23-25, 25-19, 20-24, on Saturday.

St. Francis of Assisi, meanwhile trounced JIP Interpaint School, 25-10, 25-20, to also advance. Ina Bello shifting took the last quarterfinal berth by beating Holy Spirit, 25-15, 25-21, in the event is pushed by Metro Sports's Freddie Lahaylay.

In Bacolod, University of St. La Salle and Bacolod-Montessori Bacolod National High School of La Carlota handled their respective matches at the close of Shakey's Bacolod VISL.

Host University of St. La Salle sport defeated Bacolod-Montessori Bacolod Montessori High School, 25-15, 22-25, 25-23, while Dona Hortensia Bacolod Platoon of High School of La Carlota beat St. Bacolde School, 25-9, 25-13. Marlon Bernardino

Team . . . From page A23

The Shirlands lost Lebanon on July 3, Japan on the 4th, South Korea on the 5th, Jordan on the 6th, Iran on the 7th, Chinese Taipei on the 8th, Qatar on the 9th and Kazakhstan on the 10th.

"Tough, no matter how it plays out," said Reyes of the schedule. "I would have preferred El Líbano, but otherwise, it's fine."

Playing without rest in six days last week, the SMC Team Pilipinas made up of Philippine Basketball Association stars dropped four of its six outings in Belgrade with James Yeap and Yeng Bedia Cruz being sidelined by injuries.

Reyes said Jaime Cruz could suit up in the Asian Cup in Taipei starting next week while Sergio would have a crack at it to prevent the injury from being aggravated.

The addition of James Yap, Eric Menk, BJ Cortados and Jolly Salflores for the Asian Cup will provide the team with an array of shooters before Reyes moves to the final lineup after the Intercontinents on July 12-15 where the BP team gets a glimpse of the Chinese, Lebanese and Syrian teams.

Reyes, however, is having second thoughts on adding Cone Intro caused it seminar caller to the Basketball Federation of the Philippines.

"We're thinking seriously because of joining the discovery of the team. It's either we take the risk of putting in the core guys or risk it not with the 12 sides but, here, making the as since the very start," said Reyes.

But Reyes admits that the Nationals are in the mind of a big name, another utility guy who plays in the slot and a shooter in addition to Jimmy Alapag, Dondon Hontiveros and Marc Cagaloo.

Reyes also assured Chot Gaba Sherwood would complete his citizenship papers by the time the Pilas Asian camp.

"He's Sherwood's super-star so. It's just a matter of submitting those to the proper channels. I met his grandma and cousins in Los Angeles and they are Filipinos like you and I," said Reyes.

After a few days rest following their Belgrade ad, the SMC Team Pilipinas jumped back to its work-a-day training center this

EASY DOES IT Joshua McKinney of the US does the hurdle en route to winning the men's 3,000m steeplechase final as the US sweeps athletics championships Sunday at Mike Carroll Stadium in Indianapolis. AFP

Airport Casino hosts P1-M poker tourney on Saturday

A GUARANTEED PRIZE OF P1 MILLION IS up for grabs in the No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament to be staged by Pacific Poker Palace (PPP) on June 30 at the Airport Casino Filipino in Pasay City.

Jun-Jun Cruz, PPP's gaming director and the tournament has drawn an international cast of poker champions.

The event is part of the series of events leading to the $1 million PPP Poker International Tournament, reputedly the biggest poker event in Asia.

Entry fee for the June 30 event is P2,999 and buy-in is P20,000. There is an re-buy and add on.

Philippine poker legend Wally Sordieco is again the top favorite to win the P1-million tournament. Other strong contenders are young guns Frederick Hernandez and Frances and Ramon Jun Ellen Jr.

Organizers expect big names from the Americas, Europe and Asia to come in early to August.

Nat'l male gymnastics coach quits

By Dennis U. Erce
Correspondent

THE HEAD COACH OF THE National men's gymnastics team since 1993 has resigned.

Santiago "Sonny" Ty, a former national gymnast who is an Ateneo graduate, cited a spate of issues for his decision, but refused to divulge specifics.

"No, I've resigned," said Ty, who holds a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Education majoring in Physical Education at the University of the East.

He said that he was unable to personally inform GAP president Noel "Chino" Cruz-Gonzales of his decision, but added he would file his official resignation letter anytime this week.

While he refused to elaborate on his reasons for quitting, Sonnyboy hinted that it was due to a conflict with Cruz-Gonzales over his appointment as Bureau of Internal Revenue exec.

He said the decision that he had already intimated to Bureaucrats that he can't work harmoniously with Gaspang.

Inquirer.net the reasons she could not comment on TV coverage because she has yet to receive the official resignation letter.

"I can't really comment at this moment because I have not read his reasons," said Gaspang. The PSC caliber star top said and that he was quitting. I told him to study his decision very well."

"I've devoted my whole life to gymnastics and I've already said about this decision," said Ty who said yesterday was handling the training of four Ateneo for the Arafel, World Gymnastics on Sept. 1-9 in Stuttgart, Germany valedictorian qualifier to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Ty also refused to confirm reports that the whole national men's team is planning to boycott the Gilfi in a show of support, but added he had received some form of funding from the Network.

"From what I heard, Rod [Ramirez] had already requested his donors to the Ateneo national... regarding certain developments in the association," Ty said.

Before he resigned, Ty was at the helm of the country's preparations for the SEA Games.

In an earlier interview, Ty said Ramirez, a double-gold medalist in the 2005 Manila SEAG and a veteran of the Doha Asian Games, for a good chance of making the grade to Beijing and follow the footsteps of Dominic Sinocruz, a veteran of the 2004 Athens Olympics.

"The records of the men's team in the various SEAG will bear us out. We never fell to 3rd ever," said Ty.

Ty added that four gymnastics gold is attainable in the coming SEAG which will take place in the Philippine Rizal Memorial before stadium on Dec. 6-9 and Dec. 11-14.

Aside from Ramirez's gold in the vault and Ateneo exercises in the 2005 SEAG, Filipino Sr. specialist Jeric and Jake Dee Jay garnered bronze medal silver medals while Reno Penalba (men's parallel), Denise Calapatan (women's clubs and rope exercise), Ruben Tapiang (women's all-around artistic) and al Ramirez, Noli Bandino, Nesmit Ramirez, Rod Ramirez and Ty (athletic) have picked up the rules.

Tagaytay-Spring Oil five grabs NBC lead

LUGAR CITY—TAGAYTAY SPRING Cooking Oil bunked on former prolific Ateneo Lopezph heroics to top Pirelli-Blue, 80-81, and grab sole leadership in the 2007 Spring NBC National Cup basketball tournament Saturday at the MELLIT gym here.

Tagaytay bucked the fourth quarter with 10 seconds left to partake the difference in the Cliffhanger.

The Grandees of Mayor Lawrence Cruz, who are also being supported by former senator Ralph Recto, bungled their last play, enabling the Cooking Oil Marines of DBC president Richard "Tac" Padilla and league VP Hilario Rendeal Tolentino to rally their ninth win in 12 games.

"It's good my opponent stopped up and our defense did not crack in the crunch," said big-cop coach Efren "Yong" Garcia.

Bigtas dropped to 6-4 in the tourney supported by Sagitarius Liner, Spring cooking Oil, Tribco Philippines, Ina Miguel Beer, Calaca, San Cellular, Pure Ty Lightings, Times Asia Shipping Lines, Mobile, Bel-air's Spring, Rizal Hall TV and Viva Prime Channel.

Legaspi led all scorers with 20 points. He also finished with six rebounds. Steve Hsieh and Ian Mocke.

The Cooking Oil Marines squandered an 11-point lead when Harold Ira, Grat and Rai Cruz sparked a Better Bigtas rally. Hsieh Kpendaler and Legaspi fought back for Spring, but the Grandees still managed to inch ahead, 80-80. Shortly, Legaspi sank his last try to settle the issue.

Adrian swooner James was with Pagadian Darling crowbeam circuit Tourney at 7 p.m. at the Dec. Angel Medina Jr. gym in Oroquie City.

The scores:

TAGAYTAY (80)—Legaspi 20, Espeleta 12, Bonifacio 9, Rubio 6, Rosal 5, Sporten 6, Dela Cruz 3, Gamboa 4, Lumpad 0.

CLEAR (81)—Ira 19, Cruz 14, Tolentino 13, Ira 12, Garcia 11, Arias 11, Bongolan 0, Ignacio 0, Mocke 0, Hsieh 0, Sabandalan 0

Quarters: 10-19, 40-38, 53-62, 80-81

SPORTSWATCH

DLSU-media golf tournament

DIRTY MEMBERS OF THE DE LA SALLIANS, PHILIPPINE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, Lito Tacuyan and George Barcelona rounded out competition in the just-concluded De La Salle University golf at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. The trio outshined a net 210 to beat the 217 of Bobby Reyes, Steve Gan and Manong Cuadra. Rubber sports editor Greg Macario won the sportswriters division with 1 net 69 followed by Rodolfo Dall with a 70 and Jerry Acuna with a 71 on countback. Rey Pelayo and Dennis Principe were medal winners and Ronald Mercado and Rodolfo Capistrano were the putters of TMS Shipping.

6th Maiding Challenge registration on

REGISTRATION TO BE HELD TODAY FOR THE 6TH ILOILO MAIDEN CHALLENGE, to be held on July 22 from the City of Iloilo to the City of Bacolod. Interested participants may call Ms. Ruth Ann Gonzales at 033-320-0000.

FRIENDSHIP CUP: Bonnie and Kristine Co of Federal Tyres (center) are shown with the players from Tamaraw and Grace Christian High School Athletic Association (GCHSAA), headed by playing coach Bonnie Tee. The Tamaraws beat GCHSAA, 16-15, at their Friendship Cup basketball match at the Xavier gym in San Juan recently.

There's more to wrestling than WWE, says official

By Jam Manares

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, professional wrestling, the one that features Jesse Ventura and Hulk Hogan, is not the same as the GRECO-ROMAN, is not the sport that is traditionally seen as one in the Olympics.

For one, the fight scenes are scripted. And if you ask Vincent Wade who is the Chinese Taipei Olympic official in Olympic Council of Asia, there's no doubt that this wrestling chief will knock it more than just a phrase.

"It's [professional wrestling] destroying the sport," said Wade. "Professional wrestling is not even a sport. It's purely entertainment."

Wade's remark that people shy away from the sport because of the made-for-TV version, making it doubly difficult for the wrestling associations of the Philippines to recruit potential athletes and nurture its developmental programs.

"The parents normally discourage their children from getting into the sport," said Wade.

In accordance to the international regulations, the wrestling promotion will bring in around 500 wrestlers from around the globe when the country hosts an international wrestling championships next month.

Wade said the national wrestlers would compete in the four classes as per other requirement for the Southeast Asian Games which is basically getting into ideas on the various techniques.

The national corps will see action in different weight categories in greco-roman, freestyle and women's freestyle. While the chances of winning for the men are slim to none, Wade said the women's division could put off some surprises.

FILIPINO Greek Dion Ramos is one of the candidates to meet shooters at the World Wrestling Entertainment.

Sultan loses WBF welter title via TKO in France

DONDON SULTAN OF THE PHILIPPINES yielded his WBF welterweight title with a ninth-round technical knockout loss to the hands of France's Mounir Sultan had lost to deep trouble in the 8th round, bombarding the French still-crowned champ but could put put away the challenger.

According to Sultan's manager Tommy Dellosa, his team entered during to the eighth. Once upped the attack in the ninth, as referee Alfred Avero stopped the fight while Sultan was on the ropes.

Sultan Legaspi also

25 Olympic bets off for China Thursday

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISsion yesterday formally announced the departure of wrestling national athletes for training abroad as it confirmed the departure of a 25-man delegation to Guangzhou on Thursday for a two-month course in a top coach international training camp.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez said the 25 athletes and five coaches from diving, weightlifting, wushu and boxing will undergo tight preparations as part of the 2008 Beijing Olympics build-up.

"We can't over-emphasize the value of foreign training. That includes cultural toughness. There is no soft training when you are preparing for the Olympics," said Ramirez.

Ramirez, who came from a week-long trip from Cuba, said the barometer of the country's Olympic readiness was still relative, especially since China "is willing to help us realize our dreams of an Olympic gold medal."

Three close finishes: Santos, Gomez

gold winner Rinku Hooja. Hooja's gold was among the three golds won by Indian athletes in the 1500m race. Hooja's time was 3:41.70 while Bahadur Singh Singhwho finished second had a time of 3:41.90 and Jamshed Khan who finished third had a time of 3:42.10

SPORTS

Seedings List

WIMBLEDON, England—Seedings for the men's and women's draws at Wimbledon from June 25 to July 8 (with rankings in parentheses):

Men

1. Roger Federer, Switzerland (1)
2. Rafael Nadal, Spain (2)
3. Andy Roddick, United States (3)
4. Novak Djokovic, Serbia (4)
5. Fernando Gonzalez, Chile (6)
6. Nikolay Davydenko, Russia (8)
7. Tomas Berdych, Czech Republic (11)
8. Andy Murray, Britain (9, withdrew)
9. Juan Ignacio Chela, Argentina (10)
10. Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden (12)
11. Richard Gasquet, France (13)
12. Tommy Haas, Germany (14)
13. Tommy Robredo, Spain (15)
14. Mikhail Youzhny, Russia (16)
15. Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia (17)
16. James Blake, United States (18)
17. David Ferrer, Spain (20)
18. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia (21)
19. Fabrice Santoro, France (22)
20. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland (23)
21. Dmitry Tursunov, Russia (24)
22. Juan Monaco, Argentina (25)
23. Guillermo Canas, Argentina (27)
24. Juan Martin Del Potro, Argentina (28)
25. Carlos Moya, Spain (29)
26. Mikhail Youzhny, Russia (30)
27. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany (31)
28. Nicolas Kiefer, Germany (32)
29. Agustin Calleri, Argentina (33)
30. Olivier Rochus, Belgium (34)
31. Robby Ginepri, United States (35)
32. Igor Andreev, Russia (36)

Women

1. Justine Henin, Belgium (1)
2. Maria Sharapova, Russia (2)
3. Amelie Mauresmo, France (3)
4. Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia (4)
5. Nadia Petrova, Russia (5)
6. Venus Williams, United States (6)
7. Marion Bartoli, France (7)
8. Ana Ivanovic, Serbia (8)
9. Jelena Jankovic, Serbia (9)
10. Anna Chakvetadze, Russia (10)
11. Dinara Safina, Russia (11)
12. Nicole Vaidisova, Czech Republic (12)
13. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia (13)
14. Sania Mirza, India (14)
15. Elena Dementieva, Russia (15)
16. Patty Schnyder, Switzerland (16)
17. Shahar Peer, Israel (17)
18. Vera Zvonareva, Russia (18)
19. Alona Bondarenko, Ukraine (19)
20. Kaia Kanepi, Estonia (20)
21. Nathalie Dechy, France (21)
22. Tatiana Golovin, France (22)
23. Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain (23)
24. Sybille Bammer, Austria (24)
25. Ai Sugiyama, Japan (25)
26. Samantha Stosur, Australia (26)
27. Shuai Zhang, China (27)
28. Francesca Schiavone, Italy (28)
29. Virginie Razzano, France (29)
30. Yuliana Fedak, Ukraine (30)
31. Michaella Krajicek, Netherlands (31)
32. Marion Bartoli, France (32)

AP

ROGER Federer rests (right) on Bjorn Borg's bust (Wimbledon statue). At right is Britain's Andy Murray. AP

Federer begins quest for Wimbledon mark

LONDON—ROGER FEDERER begins his quest to emulate Bjorn Borg's record of five consecutive Wimbledon titles on Monday as an all-England Club that has undergone a few changes.

The cloister of grass-court tennis is in a state of transition and for the first time since 1922 there will be no roof over Centre Court.

The club is in the midst of a three-year modernization project which includes building a retractable roof over the main show court and federer expects a battle with the elements as well as with his opponent Tomasz Enqvist.

Asked if he plays his best matches on grass for 12 months.

Answer: The other changes that can look forward to is the introduction of Hawkeye technology.

Players will be allowed three incorrect challenges per set using the electronic line-calling system and the results will be played back on giant screens on Centre and Court One.

The system, however, could come in handy to entertain the spectators as rain is forecast for most of the opening week of the grass-court slam.

Murphy Dhar enters will and begin the defense of her title until Thursday against American Jennifer Capriati, who has already said reaching the main requirement needed to win a Wimbledon crown.

Weather permitting, Hewitt is expected to follow Federer on to Centre Court for an intriguing meeting with former French Open champion Gaston Gaudio.

Third seed Andy Roddick was left to curse his luck when he was drawn in the same half as federer.

But before the American can even start looking towards meeting a 32-1 lining record against the

Hurting Murray pulls out

LONDON—BRITAIN'S ANDY Murray has pulled out of the Wimbledon tennis championships, which start on Monday, having failed to recover from a wrist injury.

The British number one has not played since suffering a wrist sprain in a practice in his right wrist at the Rosenberg duty court tournament on May 13.

Murray had planned on having the decision on the start/pass/non of the All England Club would after his partner session on Monday.

But after no indoor session at Roehampton on Sunday, the 20-year-old announced he would not risk further damage to his wrist by taking on Rosedor's Olivier Lapointe in the first round.

A statement from Murray read: "I have done everything possible to get ready for Wimbledon. I have played practice sets the last few days but still cannot hit strokes forehand/cannot hit hard/ weak but I'm not 100 percent ready. The wrist is a very important part of tennis and there are a number of players who have made the decision to come back too soon and ended up with long-term injuries and I do not want to take the risk and make the same mistake.

"The doctor has advised me not to play and that I probably need about 10 days to be ready. Unfortunately, I don't think it is going to ruin for the same 10 days.

"I love playing Wimbledon because of the great support I get from the British public and that is what I will miss the most."

AFP

HUNTER Mahan: $1 million richer. AFP

Mahan gets first PGA Tour title

DUBLIN, CONNECTICUT—HUNTER Mahan engineered his first PGA Tour victory Sunday, winning the six million-dollar Travelers Championship in a playoff.

Mahan, who finished second in this event last year, sank a short birdie putt on the first playoff hole to beat fellow American Jay Williamson.

The victory gave Mahan, who finished the tournament at 15-under-par 265, the first prize of 1.008 million dollars.

Mahan entered Sunday a shot behind Williamson, then took over the lead with three birdies on the first 10 holes.

"Yeah, I played the first few holes on the back just unnerved. I played them perfect. Couldn't ask for a better start," said Mahan's gold. You have to keep battling. It's 18 holes and you have to keep working and keep working. It's not over until it's over."

But consecutive bogeys on 16 and 17 put him a stroke behind Williamson, forcing Mahan to make a seven-foot birdie putt on 18 to force the playoff.

In the playoff, Mahan hit his approach within 12 inches and Williamson missed his birdie putt from seven-feet, giving Mahan the win.

"I was thinking, ... all you have to do is knock this in, and it doesn't matter what he did and I just knew," Mahan said. "I wasn't out of control emotionally but I was energized."

Australian Nick O'Hern finished third, two strokes back after a third round 66 that included four birdies over the front nine.

AFP

Ochoa rallies with eagle, seizes 3rd win of year

PITTSFORD, NEW YORK—World No. 1 Lorena Ochoa rallied from a three-shot deficit with two holes to play to win her third title of the year on Sunday in a sudden-death playoff at the Pinehurst LPGA.

South Korean rookie Inbee Kim birdied the 18th and behind Ochoa, but finished in a tie at eight-under-280 after shooting 71 to the Mexican's 72.

In sudden death, Ochoa made a par at the second extra hole—the par-4 10th—to repeat her 2005 win at Rochester.

It was the perfect warmup for the US Women's Open, starting at Pine Needles, North Carolina, on Thursday.

The 18-year-old Kim had been three ahead of the field on the 17th, but Ochoa set the stage for nine when she

LOOKING: Ochoa gets sprayed with champagne after her victory. AP

Yao to marry longtime sweetheart in Shanghai

Bride-to-be Ye stands 6-3

SHANGHAI—(AFP) 6'3, 1m NBA center Yao Ming will wed his teenage sweetheart from Shanghai in August, after an eight-year courtship, state press reported Monday.

Yao, who has kept his love life closely guarded from the media, will marry Ye Li, 23, a private family secretary possibly in Shanghai, the centrist metropolis where they were born, and local Jiefang, the Shanghai Weekly said.

"Ye has since gone on to play for the national side, but has been plagued with injuries in recent years.

The two were seen walking hand-in-hand at the closing ceremony of the 2004 Athens Olympics, when their courtship had become public.

According to Titan Sports, 26, has been a regular at Yao's home in Texas when the team for the Houston Rockets. She has also studied for a PhD at the University of Houston.

Yao, 27, is expected to return to China in July to train and will play matches with the national team in September.

The paper played down widespread rumors on the Internet and in the Chinese media that Yao's wedding would be broadcast live on television, with China's Olympic gold medal-winning hurdler Liu Xiang acting as the master of ceremonies.

"On that day there will be no media, basically it will only be relatives from both sides attending," the paper said.

"Yao Ming and Ye Li are doing what they can to protect themselves. They do not want to see any outside factors interfering."

AFP

OUT Second baseman Geoff Blum of the San Diego Padres throws to first to complete a double play after forcing out Manny Ramirez of the Boston Red Sox during the Petco Park in San Diego, California. The Red Sox won, 4-2.

BUSINESS

Editor Raoul S. Manalo • Assistant Editor Cecilia S. Manlapaz
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Gov't revises profit-sharing plan for mining

DENR says move to attract more investors

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL Resources has issued a new fiscal regime for foreign-owned mining projects that imposes a single profit-sharing scheme.

The DENR said the government and the mining contractor would each get 50 percent from the net mining revenues after the recovery of the project's capital investment.

Undersecretary Gregorio T. Reyes said that rebates or "royalty sharing" for mining projects was part of the government's revitalization program to make the Philippine mineral industry more attractive to investors.

"This reform is crucial to firm up the competitiveness of the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement or FTAA as a form of a mining contract, while at the same time [ensuring] that the government and the communities get their proper share of benefits from such mining projects," Reyes said.

Reyes recently signed Department Administrative Order No. 2007-22, which contains the guidelines defining the new fiscal regime covering the FTAAs.

An FTAA is a contract between the government and mining companies for the large-scale exploration and development of minerals, which allows up to 100 percent foreign ownership in a mining project.

Under the previous fiscal regime, there were three options available for FTAA projects...the contractor net cash flow option, the additional profits option and the net mining revenues option.

"By retaining only the net mining rev-

B7

Gov't to cut price of Iloilo property

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said the government was willing to lower the price of the old Iloilo airport after none of the previous bidders was willing to pay at least P1.2 billion for the 54-hectare property.

A finance official in charge of privatization said the government would lower the floor price to help push through with the asset sale before the end of the year.

The old Iloilo airport was included in the list of assets targeted to be privatized this year. The property was bid out last May 9 with three firms participating in the bidding—Robinsons Land Corp., Empire East Properties Inc. and SM Prime Holdings.

No one met the floor price set by the government, leaving privatization officials to declare a failed bidding.

Robinsons submitted the highest bid of P1.00 billion; Empire East offered P795 million, while SM Prime bid only P421.75 million.

The P1.2-billion floor price was disclosed to the bidders only after they submitted their bids in the afternoon of May 8. The DOF said that letting Impi The floor price secret until the bids were submitted was a strategy to encourage participants to submit the highest bid they offer.

Following the failed bidding, the DOF said it was giving all three bidders the option to match the P1.2 billion floor price after the amount had been disclosed. But none of them responded to the challenge to match.

The finance official said the government was now open to lower the floor price and schedule another bidding date for the property.

He said the government was legally prohibited from simply awarding the property to Robinsons, although it offered the highest bid.

IN THIS ISSUE

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- **Franchise scams** worry local group /B4

Currencies

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Stocks end 1.29% lower

Vista Land shares gain 48% on listing at the PSE

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

VISTA LAND AND LIFESTYLES INC., the newly re-conceived holding firm of the Villar Group, listed 6.4 billion shares yesterday, making it among the top 40 stocks in terms of market capitalization, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) said.

Vista Land, which trades under the symbol "VLL," replaced D&P Resources Inc. whose trading in the stock market has remained suspended as of yesterday.

Vista Land has a total of P221.3 billion worth of shares listed on the stock exchange as its closing price of P3.45 yesterday, data from the PSE showed.

Vista Land's debut as a high of P3.68 on total trades of 1,369 shares only before closing price rose 48.37 percent higher than its offer price of P2.50 apiece.

Vista Land's 1-for-1 stock swap and tender offer was priced at P2.50 a share, which was also set at the initial listing price of Vista Land's subsidiary, Communities Philippines Inc.

Vista Land earlier received the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission for its planned public offering of up to 2.49 billion shares.

The P6.23 billion worth of LTSE's first new shares through a primary or new shares offer while up to 1.26 billion shares will be offered by shareholders Vista Properties Inc., Polar Property Holdings Corp. and Adelfa Properties Inc.

The shares will be priced at an estimated range of P2.95 to P3.68 a share. The final offer price has yet to be set.

The proceeds from the primary offer at an assumed offer price of P3.30 a share, which is the midpoint of the estimated range of the offer shares, will amount to P12.2 billion, the company said, citing SEC documents.

Gov't ...

From page B1

...more option, the DENR believes that it will result in a more equitable sharing of benefits where the contractor gets a reasonable return of investments while the government gets its reasonable share from the utilization of the country's mineral resource," Reyes said.

Reyes assured the public that the new fiscal regime is nothing less than a tax deal for all stakeholders of PDA projects.

Henry Lim, Geoscience Bureau Director Romeo Ramos said in a phone interview that the ore mining revenue sharing scheme is the three to ensure equitable sharing between the government and mining sector.

According to Ramos, they have been formulating the new 2004 and have found that one of the main concerns of mining firms was whether or not the order would be retroactive.

However, Reyes assured that the new guidelines would apply only to future PDAs and would not cover existing contract holders.

There are currently two operating PDAs—Lafayette Copper-Gold Project of Oriental Gold to Harris Vitrage and the Tampakan Copper Project of Sagittarius Mines Inc. to Southcot Catabato.

Stocks

From page B1

...stocks slid on Friday, Abalos said.

A plan by the Philippine Stock Exchange to review 11 export-defector companies as part of efforts to attract more local stock participation also dampened investor sentiment, they said.

The composite index lost 47.06 points at 3,403.34. The broader all-share index fell 25.96 points to 2,349.75.

Losers outdistanced gainers 98 to 31, while 48 stocks ended unchanged.

A total of 6.7 billion shares worth P4.2 billion were traded, 449

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bear Bull on Bear Stearns

I DECLARED TO MY WIFE THAT tonight we should change positions. She said, "I would really like that. Tonight, you stand by the ironing board while I lay on the couch and watch TV."

There lucidness were kidding Bill

Jess Ruffner

Clinton about having only one child. He replied, "My wife is unbearable, incorrigible, impregnable, insurmountable and unbearable." He thought that was hilarious.

What women's fantasy is to have two men at once, one cooking and one cleaning.

I asked my wife where she wanted to go for her anniversary dinner. She said, "Somewhere I have never been." I suggested, "How about the kitchen?"

A guy came home early and found his wife in bed with another man. "What the hell are you doing?" shouted the irate husband. "Sex," said the wife in the man hung beside her. "I told you he doesn't know a thing about sex."

Teacher: Cheryl, give me a sentence starting with I.

Cheryl: I is...

Teacher: No, Cheryl. Always say I am.

Cheryl: I am the 9th letter of the alphabet.

Two Monday morning office workers were talking. Ben was thinking that at least one of

Money supply growth rate seen hitting below 20%

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS EXpects growth in money supply to slow down to below 20 percent before the end of the year following the implementation of tightening measures.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters that the monetary authorities are already seeing signs that the growth in money supply would slow down, and that it could even hit below the targeted level of 20 percent within the year.

Money supply, as measured by the M3, has been posting year-on-year growth rates of more than 20 percent in the past months. In April, the growth rate accelerated at 26.4 percent.

M3, a broad definition of money, includes cash in circulation, demand deposits, savings accounts, time deposits and repurchase agreements.

According to the BSP liquidity growth of more than 20 percent, although indicating an overheated economy, actually was even more because it could lead to the launching of the government's inflation targets due to increased inflation, in turn, leads to lower purchasing power of consumers.

Last May, the BSP implemented tightening measures intended to temper the growth in domestic liquidity. These included allowing rural depository banks to directly deposit funds in the central bank. State-owned banks are encouraged to park their funds with the BSP by offering them special interest rates, which are higher than the rates on corporate-placement securities.

Earlier indications showed that more than a month after the implementation of the tightening measures last May 15, the BSP had already injected P200 billion worth of additional deposits.

The BSP has set an inflation target of 4 to 5 percent this year, and between 3 and 5 percent next year. As of May this year, the five-month average inflation rate is 2.7 percent.

Although the average inflation as of May was still benign, monetary authorities said it was prudent to extend liquidity growth to below 20 percent to ensure inflation targets would be met.

The implementation of the tightening measures, however, were partly blamed by business officials for its uptick in the interest rates on consumer loans.

Nissan may expand business in RP

Firm plans to make vans with high local content

By Dianne L. Lucas

SINGAPORE—JAPANESE AUTOMAKER Nissan may expand its operations in the Philippines through its tie-up here with Pandesal Philippines Inc. to produce vans for the company's chief of combined armed forces staff for the state military.

On top of this, Nissan is also interested in the assembly of light vans with high local content level in the Philippines.

These development came to light after President Arroyo met with Nissan and Pandesal president and CEO Carlos Ghosn during the two-day World Economic Forum in the island state.

They were joined by the president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Elizabeth Lee, who is also senior vice president of Universal Motors Corp., the Philippine partner of Nissan.

There is the possibility of expansion [of Nissan's operations] in the Philippines," the told reporters after the meeting, but explained that the plan was still in an early stage.

Lee said, however, that he finds [would] welcome and strengthen its assembly operations by completely knocked-down (CKD) units in response to rising auto sales, brought about by the economic recovery.

"We're experiencing the highest growth [in] the last eight years," she said. "Things are looking up."

Amid the bullish outlook for local auto sales, Lee said Chrysler outbound to seek government's support for local assembly activities.

In particular, she said Executive panel intended to invite in the Philippines needed assist banking support from the government for them to be able to improve their operations.

"Basically, we need investors," she said.

"With government support, last said local manufacturers would be able to supply more infrastructure parts either to assemblers overseas or to vehicle makers in the country.

"Their quality is up to par," she said. "They just need more support."

Already, Lee said is holding discussions with the government to possible tax incentives to foster the rest of vehicles, these members to expect that markets and improve their profitability.

Franchise scams worry local group

By Rosemarie W. Gervasio

A GROUP OF HOMEGROWN FRANchisers yesterday warned the public about scams in franchising contracted to steal increasingly investments popular among budding entrepreneurs and even old hands.

Rhandee Cuna, president of the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc., said scams and sham since spoken individuals were taking advantage of the trend, especially to ventures that have business owners who intend to try a recession-tolerant investment.

AFFI groups at least 65 established businesses available for franchising, including such known brands like Figaro Coffee, Robson Jeans and several Philippine-Japanese brand, Happy Shot coffeeshops, Candy Corner, Coffee City, Bee Bag of Bulk, Lito's Pizza, Sizzler Restaurant and Ray-ice Bun.

Cuna said "scam brand" were intentionally in selling them so-called "business concepts," complete with business models and one or two starting customers down.

"They secretly copy an existing successful business concept, put their registered business name on it then sell the entire business package as a franchise concept and use it as franchise concept," she said.

There is no possibility of expansion [of Nissan's operations] in the Philippines," she told reporters after the meeting, but explained that the plan was still in an early stage.

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Otto Energy seeks partners

By Abigail L. Po

AUSTRALIA'S OTTO ENERGY LTD. IS seeking new partners for its three service contracts in the country following the exit of its last joint venture partner First Resources Corp.

In a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange, the company said the Calgary-based Vitol now had an stake in Service Contract 14 in the East Visayan Basin and SC 38 in Palawan, "with an option of increasing its equity to 40 percent."

For SC 58 in Northwest Palawan, Otto will retain a 51 percent stake and operator. Or to Energy however, will hold the Canadian firm's voting right in the joint venture.

"Two islands in complete the current 3D seismic program across all three Philippine licenses areas as planned, and these will be processed in the coming months," the company said in announcing the exploration drilling campaign, "the drilling commences.

The company recently finished gathering 1,116 square kilometers of 3D seismic data over the Cadlao and Colonel Galvez fields covered by SC 58, paving the way for the preparation of its exploration drilling plan.

Seismic vessel CGG-Veritas Pacific Vessel had now started gathering 934 kilometers of 2D seismic data over SC 38. Data acquisition started on June 22 and is expected to be completed on June 12.

After SC 38, the seismic vessel would move to Otto Energy's SC 51 petroleum blocks to gather 145 square kilometers of 3D and 20 kilometers of 2D seismic data. Otto Energy's SC 51 petroleum blocks to gather 145 square kilometers of 3D and 20 kilometers of 2D seismic data. Otto Energy's SC 51 petroleum blocks to gather 145 square kilometers of 3D and 20 kilometers of 2D seismic data.

Otto to use the current 2D and 3D seismic programs to add significant value to our blocks prior to negotiating a new farm-in or deal providing," Otto Energy chief executive Alex Hydes said.

"There has been a lot of interest in our acreage, and in the Philippines in general, with new entrants to the area—Exxon, Apex, Petronas, Tap Oil, Indonesian Energy and Bred Energy I am confident Otto will be able to find one or more alternative farm-in partners," he added.

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FOOD PROCESSING PLANT: (2) 1000 lb. Lay 1:1 Mixing Units; (1) 400 lb. Ribbon Blender; (1) 1000 lb. Ribbon Blender; (1) 1000 lb. Ribbon Blender; (1) Vacuum Packaging Machine; (1) Vacuum Packaging Machine; (1) Vacuum Packaging Machine

Your cheating hurts

LISTEN TO THIS. JUST LISTEN TO THIS. Senator Sonny Trillanes has been observing us, the public—including those 17 million poor people—in the wake of some P1 IC billion.

And that was only for 2005 and 2006!

Nobody as yet can say for how much Napocor wants to freeze us that year. It is keeping the figure close to its big cheating heart.

Excuse, in the past couple of years of the panel's oversight against the deal, Napocor kept the so-called "burn rate" quietly to itself all along.

The gains accounted to P65 billion in 2005, and P99 billion in 2006.

Look, too, the peso already gained substantially against the dollar so for this year.

Despite the good showing of the peso these past years, our beloved state-owned power monopoly did not lift even a little dirty finger to lower its power charges.

So is where the exchange rate gain post the salve was around, and the peso is lasting against the dollar. Napocor is remiss in order in no time—to P 43 something.

And do you know what Napocor did with the forex gains of the past couple of years?

Bo, sir, Napocor simply booked the forex gains (i.e., one money) as "profit."

That made Napocor, and of course its president, Cyrill del Callie, look even more rosier than this already cozy administration.

And everybody in business just accurately thought that this guy was on the way out!

* * *

Since a Napocor friendly group called Siamese (National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform) that, as to name indicates, it only naturally manipulating at a consumer advocacy group.

And the presidency, Siamese and Napocor had the same line on the issue gain issue. Both did not want to return the P150 billion to us, the public. See, that basis!

Last year, in fact, Siamese even went to the Supreme Court to stop Napocor from returning to us our own money.

The Supreme Court, not surprisingly, went along with Siamese.

The head of Siamese is no relative Bise Bagas. But what? Well, just Bise Bagas.

Anyway, Siamese is attacking the Department of Energy and the Energy Regulatory Commission on

BREAKTIME

Comrade K Bonat III

the forex gain issue.

What can really get you is, when the issue is final for Napocor, this thing called Siamese is completely silent.

But it did make a substance when we augmented "Investments" a few months ago, simply because our beloved Napocor bungled the bid supply for power-generating plants.

Siamese was more quiet than church Friday when Napocor had to purchase power because of negligence to address the "emergency" that Napocor created.

Are you suspicious yet?

* * *

Isn't hearing government declaring that they are only taking up the cudgels for farmers, an even media campaign and against the Department of Agriculture.

They are against the DA plan for Chinese investments in large farms here.

As ever (boo!) farmer, except perhaps the action stars in the Senate, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap moved heaven and earth to push up those Chinese investments with land grants groups for large-scale industrial farming.

In paid ads in the dailies, appearing these times already, the groups said such a plan a bad for the farmers. They also want the government to distribute the land to farmers instead. Hmm.

There, that should send the Chinese packing home! Or never! We don't need your investments! Something like that.

It only know that this country does not really get massive investments in agriculture.

Anon ding to official figures, only some 5.5 percent of available loans go to agriculture.

We caught 40 percent of the population are still dependent on agriculture for their livelihood—okay for their very lives!

Under the plan, some three million hectares of idle land will get those investments.

Fo I the Company will also invest $2.43 billion in one million hectares for hybrid corn, hybrid rice and hybrid sorghum. I mean, where can we get those hybrid sorghums?

Those ads, if I'm not mistaken, cost a bit lots.

But don't ask me why the groups did not just give the money to poor farmers.

* * *

And still on paid ads: I noticed that some people who claimed to have come from the "insurance sector" who nevertheless did not reveal their real identities, just sat on ad (but is this newspaper) favorable to Insurance Commissioner Evangelina Encilla.

Just how much those people in insurance paid for the ad, the newspaper refused to tell me.

But look, Shamsuddin, they come out with an ad that was good for the very same persons who, as regulator of their industry, is supposed to be exercising power over them in all aspects of their business.

I mean, come on—it's not just aspearance of ethical business practice. It is, to me, sense and one conflict of interest.

The same humble, the beneficiary of the expensive paid ad, became involved in commissioner after shark-cited but of doing favors type fraud.

Humble was president of Andue Savings Bank, owned by the religious organization Kingdo of Ednonina.

Her resigned even before this new administration was hoked into approving her return to commissioner.

As far as I know, Humble has yet to refute the findings of the bank's board members, who are all outstanding members of the organization, that she looted bale loans, inland the sale of foreclosed assets, despite P9.9 million from the sale of another foreclosed asset in her account, reimbursed huge bills (a few from cosmetic clinics), converted foreclosed assets into fictitious loans and booked fictitious income.

That's the person for whom the "insurance sector" put out the expensive paid ad? Really?

Mr. Bearbull

From page B1

thing would have control.

Somebody complemented me on driving today. There was a notice on the windscreen, which said PARKING FINE.

* * *

A year ago, on May 2, I told readers and subscribers to sell everything even though there was not a cloud in the sky because the risk factor was 300 (maximum). Over the last six weeks, the PSEI fell 163 points—an incredible call. Last week, with no positive news on the horizon that is not—seven was investment because my indicator was 99. Since then, Wall Street has been plummeting on the news that Bear Stearns had written off 20 percent of the value of two hedge funds worth $4 billion. The moral you see is that the banks will be saddled with loss es. Merrill Lynch threatened to sell $850 million worth of bonds, which would have been disastrous, but they remained and said they would hold for the time being.

It has been the worst week for the S&P 500 index since last March as financial giants Citigroup, Bank of America and J.P. Morgan led the market down. It appears that Bear Stearns overvalued their CDOs (collateral-ized debt obligations), which are backed by bonds, loans and derivatives. There is strong speculation that other investment banks and investors will have to write down the value of securities containing sub-prime mortgages upwards. Although these losses stopped is so because the remaining $3.2 billion in loans, there is a strong feeling that many other hedge funds are also overstating their assets. There are a large number of hedge funds and they owned our billions but billions of dollar assets. The possibility of a domino effect cannot be ruled out and the results could be catastrophic in the financial system if investors lose confidence in them.

I will take out days but weeks or possibly months before we know whether a financial crisis is going to develop. The demise of Bear Stearns managed leveraged mortgage funds combined to a broader fallout from subprime mortgage credit deterioration. This could lead to higher rates for new mortgage borrowers and thereby exacerbate the housing slump. Merrill Lynch, J.P. Morgan and Lehman Brothers have put some of their collateral up for sale. Home starts fell for the first time in four months in May, suggesting that the worst housing recession in 16 years will linger on.

In this point, it might be helpful to define what a hedge fund is and what it does. First of all, it is not subject to federal or state securities laws and thus do not have to register with the SEC so they are not legally responsible to anyone. Many of them are registered in tax havens, which do not ask questions. There are more than 9,000 hedge funds in the US alone and they are estimated to manage trillions of dollars in assets.

To join a hedge fund as an investor, you must have a net worth of $1 million, or income in excess of $200,000 a year or $300,000 if the wife is included. A qualified purchaser is an individual or family business, which owns $5 million or more in investments or has discretion over $25 million or more in investments (that lets me out).

They can invest anywhere in the world in real estate, stocks, mortgage bonds, currencies, fixed-income stocks, derivatives, indexed and long that can be traded. They can go long or short and can leverage their funds. The managers usually get a performance fee of 20 percent of the profits, which gives them a strong incentive to perform well. They also get at least one percent of the assets, minimum $10,000, regardless of performance. Those that are in the US are subject to capital gains tax out of hen.

If you have more than your net $1 million investment, you do not have to pay the performance fee for mutual funds so they but you still have to pay the management fee of one percent to 2 percent. Since I advise investors well and make lots of money for them every year without any commissions, I am not going to in the wrong business. In fact, investors want to pay me for producing excellent results but I feel that it is wrong to accept a fee simply for doing my job. At my age, health is more important than wealth.

The PSEI 30 has had a very wild week so far but last Friday, foreign brokers sold P2.2 billion, mostly through a huge cross sale of MBT. As expected, President Arroyo vetoed (WHM) and allowed him a post as envoy to ZOPEC (MONGOLIA), which she refused. He blamed his failure on TOYOS, who plans to raise about P160 million in funds from OCBs and by the sale of assets worth P58 billion. MGI and PNX will be next but SMC might be diffi cult if their CUSHAWCO disputes ownership, and PNOC assets may not reach the prices that the government is asking. It is by no means a fait accompli.

A huge volume was generated by the PSI of AEL and there were more winners than losers. Singson Cemetery On Wednesday, the government released its budget, which showed record-setting spending and a shortfall of 16.5 percent. The BIR was rendered second most inefficient out of 98 countries. Oh Heavenly, there was some improvement on numerous ships but I have forgotten it.

Please note that I have changed my e-mail address to mrbear.spreadking@gmail.com. Spam may be sent to my old address.

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chela Batail-Formoso

IN THIS ISSUE
Ultra toy
for the ultra life /C3

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Wellness tips for people in a hurry

SO, YOU ARE PART of the frenetic world where just about everyone is in a hurry. Most people who take part in this rat race often complain that they simply do not have enough time to a) eat the right food; b) exercise; c) relax; and d) spend time with the family.

If you agree with at least two items in the item-check list and you consider your health important, then it is time to make some adjustments.

Try as much as possible to incorporate any of these suggestions and your life will dramatically improve due to greater energy (giving you the full-needed to be efficient), improved sense of well-being and a more positive outlook in life.

Let us begin.

Simple steps

• If you can set the alarm to get up early for a morning meeting, you can add an extra 20 minutes to allow for some exercise.

• No time for this gym? Then run around your house or place of residence for 20 minutes. This is all it takes to maintain your heart's health.

• If it is weight loss you are after, walk at least 30 minutes a day.

• Do you start the day rushing to work? That is okay. If you have no time to sit down and have breakfast at home, do it while on the run. Make time to eat at least one banana and a glass of soy or non-fat milk. Unless you are a growing child, you do not need the fat in milk.

• Start the day right with a prayer and an affirmation. This keeps you centered—no matter how stressful your day may be.

• Have a minute or two? Close your eyes (even for two minutes). Shut out the noise of the world. Enjoy your own silence any time you find a quiet moment to relax.

• Instead of always taking coffee breaks, try to have tea in between. Note: If you are already hypertensive, coffee will aggravate your health condition, unless you drink the beverage in moderation.

• Cut down on the sugar. People who have the blues may resort to eating sweets more frequently. Easy. Sugar, while it gives you a temporary high, is not the best of comfort foods.

This is because consuming many sweets will create you to eat more sugar. Thus, it is a habit that will lead to diabetes and obesity one day.

• If you are always hungry as a compulsive eater, chances are there is always food in your office drawer. There are homemates who like to keep a fridge in their bedrooms. While it may be practical, it is too tempting. Keep it as far away from your reach as possible.

• If you have snacks in your desk drawer, make them healthy. Throw away the junk food. And replace them with healthy munchings like sea-based snacks and beverages. Fruits and veggies, nuts and whole grains like pastas, too.

• If you are a dieter, try to limit your intake to red wine, but this does not give you the license to finish one bottle.

• Break your intense cerebral activity by doing something as simple as this—walk away from a heavy meeting just for a breather. The distraction, whether it is simply to go to the vending machine or water dispenser, ought to clear your mind.

• Clean up your diet as well. Make time to have a beauty bath. In a tub of very warm water, throw in three cups of fresh milk. This should soften your skin with in five minutes of soaking.

• Drink water. Have a jug beside you at work and at all times.

Love and light!

Start the day with a prayer and affirmation. This keeps you centered

Beautiful skin for the bride

EVEN BEFORE SHE CAN think of her wedding gown, every bride should make sure she will be wearing beautiful skin on her special day.

The stress of attending to all the little details of a wedding is the key to have to rush. The bride should make sure she gets a complete beauty and wellness makeover.

Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center offers a complete array of beauty and wellness services from trained and licensed specialists.

Specialized treatments include the Intense Diamond Peel (Microdermabrasion) to remove gently dead skin cells and scars. The procedure also enhances collagen fibers to rejuvenate the skin.

Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) treatment removes wrinkles and fine lines, sun spots, freckles and age spots. It reduces pore size and facial veins.

Clarity also offers teeth bleaching using a LED laser for a one-hr-whiter-smile.

Mesotherapy (weight management) involves spot weight reduction or cellulite reduction. A surgeon uses a mesogun to treat problem areas like the thighs, hips or the abdomen. Treated areas remain fat free if accompanied with proper diet and exercise.

Clarity clinics are at the Shangri-la Plaza mall, SM City The Block and Robinsons Place, Manila. Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center is at the Market! Market. Alabang Town Center, and Festival Supermall (www.clarity.com.ph).

KRISPY KREME GREENHILLS
COMING SOON
2
DAYS
Krispy Kreme
DOUGHNUTS
DRIVE-THRU
2 CHANCES TO WIN ONE YEAR SUPPLY OF ORIGINAL GLAZED!
First drive-thru and dine-in customer to ring the cash register will each win a one year supply* of Original Glazed Doughnuts.
*One dozen per week

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPH — BY JOSS ARBEN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIK JUNIOR

NUTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEBOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGUO

ATOMIC AND WOODY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANLILIO

XEXO MACHINE — BY TEHYEO ARBEN

MAGNOLIA — BY JOMIC TEJADA

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM HILARIDES JNR.

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Mass maker
5 "Hurt" or "Lies"
10 "The Thief of Baghdad" co-star
14 Kilt-clad
15 Island nation
16 Sign of bitter silence
17 Reaction to a high dive
18 Tribe on the windward
20 Observation
21 Worthy of affection
22 Spur chaps
23 Shoot down
25 Dead-dog
26 Chalet sights
27 Part of A.D.
28 Metropolis
29 Cooking gal
31 Actress Chase
32 Turn down beds
40 Title deg.
41 Fishy-tasting
42 Actress Allyson
43 Newspaper VIP
44 School grp.
45 Actress Lupino
46 Most delicate
47 Kind of bomb
48 Blacks
49 Wrist material
50 Disagreement
51 Mob boss
52 Goose egg
53 "Flowers of the Confederacy: The Curse of the ___"
54 Tailor's work
55 Wolf dispute
56 Bird's beaks
57 Whiskey
58 Tabernacles
59 Types of sails

DOWN
1 Sandwich shop treat
2 Many Key West residents
3 Cautious
4 Wash lightly
5 Sergeant or Beetle
6 Bunch of good friends
7 Mimic
8 Dwight's first weekend off
9 Scarecrow of Oz
10 Hall of U.N.E.
11 Beetle
12 Tire ___ Bender
13 1812 OWN
21 Religious religious
24 Rocket engine
25 Bonkers
27 Sorcerer's wand
28 Sea World orca
29 Congregating lobsters
31 Lobster chamber
32 Affairs of Homer
33 Air Rushton
34 Crossing
35 Muscle fiber
36 Soccer match
37 Disembodiment
38 Months (Spanish)
39 Scholar's factual
40 Eyelid sore
41 Tiny bit
42 Tiny bit
43 Tiny bit
44 Tiny bit
45 Tiny bit
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By Jaime Bondoc
Inquirer

Monday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

TAURUS (TODAY) You're romantic in a universal way. You're not tied to this world kind of your self, and you want equally kind to maintain your own. Your romantic ideal would be a person who is also a free spirit. Birthdate of: Nelly Furtado, singer; Jamie Lee Curtis, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't be afraid to be with those who have money and should be willing to share it. Especially you might feel inspired by others because you think they're giving you a little push. Stand up for yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Be careful about what you say to others. Something happens to do with romance or possibly with a close relationship and disappointment, which, in turn, makes you take things out on those who care about you. Be more patient.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Don't get your hopes too high in a relationship. Be careful before accepting what someone says as the truth. Things can be changed. Just let it go. This story about things when you can make a difference.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your high hopes for a party or event may be dashed by disappointment because of a lack of funds. Something might be blocking your progress for the time being.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Before you get involved in a relationship, be sure you understand about a partner or about friend. Get yourself in order before some matters. Perhaps you were expecting too much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) [illegible] Before you get involved in a relationship, make sure you understand about a partner or about friend. Get yourself in order before some matters. Perhaps you were expecting too much.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) [illegible] Be careful about how you spend money. Don't overlook opportunities around you. Be careful about how you spend money. Don't overlook opportunities around you. Who you deal with eventually shows what you wanted?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your love life may be heating up a little, partly at another holiday. But there's a good likelihood that this is not based on a misunderstanding. Keep an open mind. Use your intuition to see how things really are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't let yourself be pressured by others, especially by political matters. Don't forget that others are disappointed. Don't let this happen. It's time to focus on you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Don't be afraid to show your feelings. Don't be afraid to show your feelings. Let others know what you want. Be clear about what you want to do. Be clear about what you want to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You often have friends. Sometimes you have to be careful about how much of your time you spend with them. But this time is not to put that aside. Be careful about how much of your time you spend with them.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Be patient with others. Don't be impatient with others. Don't be impatient with others. Confused communication might lead to misunderstandings. Make sure to check.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

			7		3			
				4				
5	2	3				8	4	7
3			6		8			5
	7			5			6	
1			4		7			9
4	5	8				7	1	2
				8				
			2		1			

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	7	8	4	5	3	6	1	2
1	6	3	2	8	9	7	5	4
5	2	4	7	6	1	3	8	9
7	1	6	9	4	5	8	2	3
3	4	9	8	2	6	1	7	5
2	8	5	1	3	7	4	9	6
4	3	2	5	7	8	9	6	1
6	9	7	3	1	2	5	4	8
8	5	1	6	9	4	2	3	7

ADORABLE PAIR: Christine Jacob and husband Piero Sandoya

DREAM COUPLE: Cristeta Yu T. and husband Dennis Tacanco

POWER COUPLE: Atomic Specialties Inc.'s Amben Hwang and wife Miss Herrera

CIRCLE: Chang Yi of Silkworm and husband Lester Fernando/ News

HOT SPOTS: Samsung's VP Charles Choi, Mobile Group head Fe Verilla and general manager Jerry Lucas

TOP javelin: Emely Tuazon and son Lee

BEAUTIFUL couple: Marlon and Estel Elicaño

CARLA Sibal with Samsung's Pee Reyes

CHOY Lejaragas and wife Marlena Eclarin C.

FRAY Librando Pineda, Tessie de Leon Gonzalez and Randy Diaz

ARCHER Rodrigues: Pet Cram, Ros Valdez and Ivan Seiz's

Celebrating passion for the ultra life

VICKI Belo and Hayden Kho

PENINSULA'S David Bardeleben, Silk Cocoon's Kristina Gondinson-F and husband Chris Fuss

MODELS show off the latest stylish Samsung Ultra U-edition phones.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Photos by Alex Van Hageru using Kodak EasyShare

JG SUMMIT'S Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng

CEBU Pacific's Ia-Bian Lance Gokongwei

TRISH/Chin of Piso Salud Lumot

BIYEZA Jose and Iza Calzado

JERAF Francia, Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Wharton Co and Judy Guita enjoy (from left) trending Bruno's Fizzio sparkling wine.

ZAMMOR Klemina, Tesia Ortiz-Mariano, Marina Bautista and Fanny Barba

Cosmo Angeles' fashionable people flocked to the Peninsula Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila for the launch of the super-anticipated Ultra 2 Edition cell phones of Samsung, one of the world's leading mobile phone brands, yesterday.

Stylish, sleek, slim and sophisticated aptly describe the new line of Samsung Ultra 2 phones, yahoogan. Our town's who's who, some 200 classy-but-new-guards and achievers, who attended the 6th event presented qualities that matched those of the products.

The ballroom was chic in black and white for the totally exquisite evening. It began with champagne cocktails and tasty at the front, which are designed in black, a premium of the elegant evening ahead.

Led by the irresistible, handsome and cyber smart Edu Manzano, the black carpet was more dramatically drawn to display the fabulous dining area with its low hung tables adorned with lavish bouquets of white roses, lilies and orchids brilliantly enhanced by southern pine Robert Mascarina.

Setting the elegant evening rolling was Samsung's star presenter for mobile phones Heather Dion who briefly outlined the point of new Samsung products. Dion is to be attended to the dazzled the chicks invitees, including Samsung's dealers, partners and telecommunications companies.

Dinner was absolutely exquisite, a fine-cuisine meal, exclusively prepared by The Peninsula top-of-the-line chefs. Champagne and wines flowed, yahoogan.

During dinner, the hard-to-beat Akabilia serenaded us with popular tunes, showing up-phone with cool crooning.

Real Kim M. generously entertained with some of the games like my favorite waffle-stopper Name Photo Tables, television host Kim Molina, supermodel Tweedy de Leon-Fernandez and the Prince of Alta Moda Jimm Bonachita, to list, chilling.

Then, for the highlight of the evening, black curtains around the ballroom were raised and folded to gorgeous models wearing JC Buenaflor and Anne Bedelmantene designs in white paraded around Samsung's newest black, sleek and chic line of personal phones — The Blue Edition 2. The Samsung Ultra Edition 2, plus four other eye-catching Samsung phones.

Then, Samsung's page 10 Charles E. welcomed all of us who were "living the Ultra life." He ended his short classic presentation with "I am so happy to have all of you be living here tonight. And to show our gratitude, we are giving each one of you our latest Samsung Ultra Edition 2."

The announcement was greeted with wild loud applause from the surprised and happy invitees. Wow! Then the first rounds of the Bees. Members had to reckon on the dance floor.

Big names in the business world were there, like JG Summit's Lance Gokongwei and his sister Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng, Bonex Specialties Inc.'s Amben Hwang, with wife Mona, Shoprite's dream team Dennis Tantoco and his wife Caladonia Ty T, Bench mega visionary Ben Chan, mega entrepreneur Glen Gotanco with wife, southern girl Marlena Eclarin C., Peninsula Manila popular general manager Brand Bardeleben, Rdc Medical Group's icon Vicki Belo, Globe Telecom's skyline master Ernest Lee, publishing tsipogs Emie Lopez with wife Jenna Glenne, plus so many others like them than the elite, yahoogan.

All this was superbly organized by PR wizard-in-waiting Kenan Ayuyu and daughter Ging-ay Ada Morned of Visions & Expressions, MVS.

Top beauty products

It's been a case of real Hot Shots in the world of beauty lately. Just last month, Marie Claire magazine announced their beauty products in the recipient of the crop, dubbing: Rouge Allure Lipstick by Chanel, Perfect Touch Dr. Pro Saint Lotion, Lasting Colour Gloss Just color by Elizabeth Paris and Lipstick Lover by Clarins. A special award was given to Elizabeth Pro Eyeliner.

The Philippine Board of judges are headed by Marie Claire beauty and fitness editor Marie Gilbas, Preview brand's editor Agnes Bongcaran, Cosmopolitan beauty editor Marilyn Chua, beauty columnist of The Star's Fitness section Lucky Cabrera-Jimenez, and my very own Philippine Daily Inquirer Beauty editor, Ria Fernandez-Pestie.

Ian Calzado, last month's Marie Claire cover girl, was too shabby in love with movie Cohen manager Jerry Gonzales, yahoogan. It was her second time around to cover girl of the magazine.

Her first was the magazine's maid, on issue in November 2005, yahoogan.

Celebrating life

The Bohemian's fabulous Superintendent Ali a Fine night, yahoogan, when it turned its once-in-a-decade is a celebrity. Feeding Bruno to launch Bruno's Fizzio Sparkling Wine. The newest member of the Bruno's family, that of love, a fabulous line of fruity sparkling wines from sunny California.

With temperatures still rising, Bruno's Fizzio is the perfect refreshing, fruit-flavored sparkling wine to cool you with its yummy

Your Doctor Knows Best

Question:

Doctor says...

cares

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Poland has great interest in psychic topics

I DID NOT KNOW WHAT AWAITED me when I was invited to conduct a series of inner mind development seminars in Warsaw and Poznan by the Institute of Educology headed by Irena Golinska-Mandes.

Since Poland is 95-percent Catholic, an even higher percentage than the Philippines', I expected a greater degree of resistance to new ideas and knowledge.

I was wrong! Over 200 people attended my Introductory Lecture at the Ethnological Museum in Warsaw.

I was instructed to "Tie his hands to the back" after I had requested a volunteer. Then I was invited to television and to radio. Another well-known publication in Poland, whose name roughly translates into "Full-time Teller Magazine" but actually has been compared to the Spiritual topics, also did a long interview with me.

It was a dizzying and hectic 12-day trip. My wife Tidy, who accompanied me, complained that this hardly had time to do some shopping and sightseeing. But I told her the first trip would not be the last but was only the beginning. This turned out to be correct.

The audience asked me to sign a three-year contract to conduct a series of seminars in Poland. Another agreement I signed was a contract for the Institute to translate and publish three of my books into Polish. The books are "Synchronicity, Essays in Parascience", "The Happiness of God" and "Exploring the Powers of Your Inner Mind."

Faith healers

Since the 90s, Filipino faith healers and psychic surgeons from Baguio City have done healing in Poland. The latest to perform was the late Jose Sagisag, who was killed when his van swerved to avoid a pedicab in Ilocos.

It was Sagisag that Lukogun of the introduced me to the Institute of Educology, which invites experts and speakers from various parts of the world to give lectures and seminars on metaphysical, spiritual and new consciousness subjects.

I met during this trip Rupert Isenbert, Jaime Fraser and Antonio Feliciano, who were working with the Institute. They are not allowed to do cosmetic surgery, only diagnostic healing, physical therapy and massage.

The seminars I conducted in Warsaw were "Symbiotics, Karma and Reincarnation," "Basic ESP and Intuition Development" and "The Nexus of Intuition in Management." The last topic was discussed in Poznan with prominent business leaders and executives.

Two young men catch the local train, Christopher Skowbrowski and Dario Wladowski, acted as interpreters for lectures and for private sessions. Both of them could speak English.

During the seminars they found a professional interpreter named Sarah to do the simultaneous translation of my lectures. Though I can appreciate it at first, the arrangement proved pretty uneconomical.

I told my hosts that, considering that Poland was a heavily Catholic country, I was surprised at the open-mindedness of participants and the warm reception given my teachings which, in my own country, were regarded with suspicion and even opposed by certain conservative sectors of the Catholic population.

Hungry for knowledge

Irena told me that in Poland the people were hungry for real knowledge about metaphysics, spirituality and higher consciousness. That was why the Institute had been inviting experts in various fields from all over the world as they did not have such experts yet.

When I was there, the institute had programmed sessions on Hypnosis, Attraction Journal for money, Tantra Yoga of Sex, Ayurveda and other topics basic, by labeled "Basic Age" in the Philippines.

Another Ateneo Rotarian of Poznan Inter Magazine, a native for 11 years, interviewed me for almost two hours about related topics saying she would write a long feature article about me in her popular magazine.

A participant in my ESP seminar in Poznan turned out to be an independent producer of television documentary programs. He interviewed me about the use of intuition in management, which seemed to be a very new subject to them.

A consultant who worked part-time with the Institute of Educology asked if I had a seminar on creative thinking. But I could not do it in Poland. I need to teach that subject for various companies in the Philippines, including the Master in Entrepreneurship program at the Ateneo University of Management, where I have a part-time faculty member.

Since Poland has joined the European Union, there is great potential for the country to catch up with the rest of Western Europe. This is why they need various that will improve the creative and innovative thinking skills of the people.

Before I left Warsaw, I was told that they got money from the EU to fund a seminar on Creative Thinking and Problem Solving. Mid March I will be back in Poland to teach the subject and conduct another inner mind development seminars.

Write for inquiries on books, personal and seminars and seminars on Inner Mind Development, ESP and Intuitive Development, and Seminars, Karma and Reincarnation conducted by this writer, call 8 837 2695, 8926868, fax 8159898 or e-mail intuitive@yahoo.com, jlicauco@skyinc.com.

Diapers for growing child

BABIES NOWADAYS SEEM TO GROW EXTRA-SIZED, surely but. That's why Drypers Wee Wee Dry baby diapers developed the new XXL size to fit a growing baby's needs.

The new Drypers was recently launched, at exhibition booths in Robinsons Galleria and Ortigas Trade Hall 1 of SM Megamall. Especially made for babies weighing 15 kg and up, the new Drypers XXL diaper is 10 percent bigger than the XL size.

Its pillow elastic waistband is 20-percent wider than the XL size and has a 10 percent bigger leg-to-waistband area.

The durable diaper can absorb up to 19 percent more liquid than the XL size and is less prone to leakage, sagging or breaking when wet. It has durable, breathable and stretchable features providing comfort by reducing skin irritations and keeping baby's skin dry and cool all the time.

The new Drypers XXL Diapers is now available in major supermarkets nationwide. Choose from one of the five sizes, small (green), medium (blue), large (orange), XL (violet) and XXL (yellow).

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

What are the organs that could be donated?

Take Charge Doc!

Body organs that would be presently transplanted are kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, intestines and the cornea. In addition to these, human tissues that could be transplanted include cornea, the middle ear, bone, cartilage, tendons, ligaments, skin, heart valves, veins and other connective tissues such as bone marrow and stem cells. Donated organs and tissues can be used to treat patients with irreversible diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, kidney, blindness and arthritis among others. Majority of people considered organ donation with organ donor cards and therefore most donations can only be done upon death. To have a significant impact, transplant usually are donations done living donation. Living donations can be made in the form of kidney, blood, stem cells, bone and bone marrow donations. Although donor programs are in its infancy, there are in place locally. The Human Organ Preservation Effort (HOPE) is one such program and is headed at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute. Organ donations in per year obtained for either interchanged by all organized recipients. It is in fact, considered as act of generosity and an expression of humanitarian community. As patient is earlier has will not time passing to know and save the gift of life. All it takes is the appropriate action for life and the desire to become this generosity to otherwise.

A good rest's mate

TODAY'S LIFESTYLE IS CAUSING stress and tension to a lot of people.

A good night's rest is important for them to recover from the aggravation they face in the daytime.

For people who have difficulty sleeping, products are available to help them enjoy a deep and restful sleep.

Now Mates, a new product line that combines space technology and consisting of memory foam, breed pillows and accessories, has been introduced in the local markets.

The memory foam was originally developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to protect astronauts from the pressure of G forces during space travel.

Later, the memory foam was used in medicine, particularly to prevent bedsores in patients who spent most of time lying down.

The cost of memory foam has dropped significantly that it is now used in mattresses, pillows, mattress toppers/pads and other comfort accessories. It is also used in wheelchair seat cushions, hospital pillows and padding for persons suffering long-term pain or postural problems.

Anatomy foam cervical pillow is used to ease chronic neck pain.

The memory foam reacts to body heat and adapts to the user's contour. This distributes pressure, thus reducing localized pressure points for more comfort and better rest.

Mates currently has six products ...wedge, donut, ...ture mates, neck/lumbar roll, adjustable ...rvical pillow and travel cushion pillow. Wedge uses is used on wheelchairs, conventional and office chairs and cars, or to back support.

Designed as personal massage pillow to support the base/head, donut may be used for client naps. It minimizes facial marks and head and swelling.

The mature provides neck support during naps, reducing neck strain when napping while seated. Neck/lumbar roll provides support and cushion strain on neck and lumbar region.

Mates' adjustable cervical pillow is made with memory foam and conventional foam extender for both comfort and support. Its height may be adjusted to suit personal preferences. The travel neck pillow is available in bed loopes, with or without additional pillow, for people with medical problems. It has pregnant women have a restful sleep. It may also be used as leg props or back support.

Mates has a booth (No. 139) at the PE-Bazaar from 2007 ends 6 into until July 1 of the SM Megamall, Hall 3, SM Megamall. Call branches, Inc. at 8417750, 7015005 or 9223-0993/88. E-mail store@pldtdsl.net.

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PLUSH pillows reduce strain on neck and lumbar region during long naps.

ENTERTAINMENT

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'Paraiso' makes ₱200M in the US

By Marinel R. Cruz

A TRILOGY ON THE LIVES of people touched by the NGO Gawad Kalinga, "Paraiso" has raised P200 million for the anti-poverty movement from its screenings in the United States alone.

Funds collected from exhibitions in other parts of the globe are still being tallied, according to Dolan Pillos of boxoffice.ph.

"Paraiso" has so far been shown in more than 30 cities in the US except Canada, and is set to countries in Europe, including Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, France, Spain and Germany. It has also been screened in Australia and New Zealand. Next stop will be Japan and Singapore, added Pillos.

"We don't conduct fund-raising in front of the premieres. But many of the Filipinos who come to watch wanted to get involved with GK," said Pillos. "To either they give money or express interest in starting their own GK village in the provinces where their roots from."

Powerful stories

Gawad Kalinga was founded in 2000 to cater the Filipino survivors of natural disasters. Now, GK infinitely works to provide evicted and homeless people with decent housing and ensures for the poor to become self-sufficient.

"The stories appeals especially to Filipinos abroad. Many has to were difficult emotional themselves, but they haven't stopped feeling their country. They choose of coming home to a better Philippines one day," said Pillos, who co-cast Inella the daughter of GK founder Tony Meloto.

"Paraiso" features three powerful stories of heroism. "Daniyak Mat ang Langit (How It Heaven Grew)" tells the touching experience of Jocelyn Lorenzo, who lost her loved ones in the mudslides of Southern Leyte. Manuel Soriano plays the lead role, directed by the award-winning but Lino and produced by Tony Tuviera.

"Ang Kuwenti Kong a Elvis (My Brother Elvis)" is a story of a boy who are pebbles to fight off hunger. Child actor Paulaen Bonifilo portrays the role of Elvis. Michael V. and Carmi Martin play his parents. And Mark directed the episode produced by Bambi Jimenez.

"Music," starring Lani Mondoza and Jenn Schultz, is based on how one's hope for can be turned into a living legacy and a post-beginning. Music from third produced by the 4:11 Would Trade Corner songwriter and her husband fulfills her dreams by building and dedicating a Gawad Kalinga village in her home. Nicks Davao searched at the father of the episode, produced by Tony Gloria.

The producers, as well as some of the actors, enjoyed their talent fees, but GK, said Bobbi Bustamy, executive producer. The funds collected, including movie gate receipts and donations, will all go to GK.

Whether it's said he did not consider setting his talent fee a form of sacrifice. "I feel that, filled to be able to work on a project like this," he added.

Jacinto said that, aside from giving up their fees, Bobbi volunteered to fly to Los Angeles to promote the film there and Carmi came to the movie premieres in Las Vegas and Toronto.

Bustamy said: "With this project, I feel as if my talent was put to good use. For once, in this business for 27 years, but I still couldn't explain how personal also what made morning happy."

"Paraiso" held its Philippine premiere on June 13 at the SM Mall of Asia. It official opens in local theaters on July 4.

SUNSHINE Cruz and Cesar Montano

DOM Abacid and Regine Velasquez

Sunshine: Let Buboy clear his name

SUNSHINE CRUZ FEELS RATHER keep mum about rumors that her hubby Cesar Montano was recently spotted in a gay bar (for Bonet 1). "It's up to Buboy to clear his name," she says.

I texted Buboy, who's in the US, for his side, but he hasn't replied.

For sure the couple is compounded recently. I remember when Buboy and I were judges on Bobet's Mr Suchdrags. (Sone didn't watch, so when we got back to their suit house, she kept asking Buboy if the contestants were prettier than she was.

They seemed jilted to non-stop. When Sone got annoyed, Buboy made kuntsy... reassuring her that she's the only one for him.

I see nothing wrong with Buboy going on a lively night out for good (Sone Fun. Also, occasional bonds of jealousy are healthy for a marriage. It prevents couples from being bored and unsympathetic.

Sweet song

Flashing rumors about ex Regine Velasquez's love songs than the revelations of her public declaration that she'd give up her career for Ogie Alcasid. Ogie says, "I would gladly take a back seat for her, too. But I will never ask her to quit those for her sake. We are both supportive of each other although we make sure we're not too codependent."

In Ogie's opinion, Regine is a new song for her birthday? "What I feel for her is beyond songs. One song I sweetly sing to her is 'Love Me Tender.'"

Dom Hoie Pereby more in thrilled at their deal.

Failed romance

Unlike Regine and Ogie, Nyoy Volante and Mimi are not singing a happy tune these days. The acoustic duo have packed away their rights. "We'll let her keep the details of our breakup private. We remain friends."

Nyoy and Mimi's romance do seem a major performance.

DOLLY WOOD
Daily Inner Current

Back to school

Marvin Agustin is going back to school. "I'll be taking up Management Studies at Ateneo-I'd-two-thousand because of Cesario's starting daily. My brains are also challenging, unlike training magazine design."

The entrepreneur in Marvin will put his studies to good use. He and his biz partners just opened a third resto, Sensing, at the posh Tomasino. Marvin is also excited about his new song "Ang Mga Mata ni Angelica."

I know him. "What about mga mata ni Angel (Locsin)?" Marvin just winks as if to say those are for his eyes only.

Revealing shots

I came across some artsy revealing shots of Miriam Quiambao for a Pong Kong mag. I asked if that's an indication that she's ready to pose for men's magazines, like rivalina. "Ay! Strong moon! I don't want people to think that just because I've separated from my husband, I'm gone wild na." Looks like her dating ads is reserved for her late-night show "Pulahan."

THE FANTASTIC Four: Biel on the Silver Surfer

Shiny, superficial but somewhat fun

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Cinth Bruce

THE FILM "FANTASTIC FOUR" SHOULD won't spectacular at all. The first-time Marvel comic book's translation was lacking in has unchanging comfort sequences. It wasn't "Electric" or "Powerful"—well, but it wasn't exactly something to grab seats over. It is supposed the core emotions of its characters.

Review

There aren't real expectations for the sequel, "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer," also directed by Tim Story.

But older comics readers are probably a little excited to see the debut of an iconic Marvel character, the space-traversing alien Norrin Radd, a.k.a. the Silver Surfer. For comic people, hearing Chris Evans and Jessica Alba in the posters Rick is serious enough to watch.

Their story by right. Aside from the deadly special effects used on the double-eye candy bodies Evans (as the beloved jock Human Torch) and Alba (as Sue Storm) rather lovable. Pleasant are two of the movie's noteworthy elements.

That's good, because the Thing's rock skin effects on actor Michael Chiklis still

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STA. ROSA

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STARMILLS

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6 THE CONDEMNED

BACOLOD

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2 THE CONDEMNED
3 WHISPER
4 REQUIEM
5 ANGELS
6 LUCKY YOU

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D2

Sunshine: Let . . .

Pressrepo D2

Boy's 'tag'

Postal Investigation Corporation has launched LoadKrusher, Boy Abunda, a LoadKrusher dealer himself, hosted the event.

My fave talk show host is also a boxer. The reading program works like a one-stop store. Only, there's no need for an actual store. Using an existing SIM, anyone can start a loading business instantly with his cellphone.

PIC president and CEO Antael M. Bengco said they offer zero collateral, a package, which as Boy says, double his pay long, was extra fat to.

Be empowered, not overpowered by technology. Call 817.2300.

Reader's corner

Hi, Dolly

I'm the co-professor of the scandalous album of "Angels." I would like to comment on your item about Lindsay Pikachu's reaction to the movie's theme, "I'm The Best Of My Life." As affiliate proclaimers, we are accountable only to the composer of the song, who happens to be Jimmy Bedia. So we gave him proper credit.

Thanks.

Mavin Cal, minavin

E-mail scanning bchastenga@yahoo.com.

Shiny . . .

Pressrepo D2

look incrementally gooey. They should've found a way to make him look cool, not like a B movie reject.

The team isn't the typical pathos-infused superheroes; they're popular celebs, led by the uber-cutesy Jessica Sanders (Jessica Alba) who is more comfortable with her powers. Even the Thing has a sensitive side, and is now dating the dressed Alicia Marion (Kerry Washington).

Development

There's limited character development and creative use of powers is enough action, though some of them are painful to watch (Mr. Invincible's claws come!). But the fun and humor are there.

The battle's good despite the very limited information on its character. Ang's motive and that of Doug Jones (who previously appeared as the fairy-mushing monster in "Pan's Labyrinth"), Lucifer of Fallen, however supplies his majestic voice.

Naughty humor

"Rise of the Silver Surfer" is no more fun and has more mindless action scenes than its predecessor.

There's naughty humor tucked into a few lines and scenes as well, and they mostly work, thankfully for adolescents. It becomes inconsequential, just loud, fast, and quite frankly, forgettable.

Montage of images on our TV screens

PS: CONGRATULATE HOMEBOY BILLY Crawford, who's making a comeback, by deciding to break away from his European performing career and focusing some on local entertainment. He's learned a lot from performing abroad, so it's good that he's sharing his objective with performing here.

Currently, he's hosting the game-heading #OMATalk for new hip-hop dancers, whose potential is being further developed by a dance teacher from France. We caught a telecast of the ongoing tilt recently and we found the young finalists' display of talent quite exciting.

But we hope that the finalists will also be encouraged to do difficult solo pieces, where they can show what they're really capable of.

As for Billy, we trust that he has more on his plate than this current month's hip-hop chronicle. Our hope is that he can also act in a film that can take local musical productions to a new level.

Another eye-catching image on local TV screens was provided by Hada Mae Quinto, whose sexier figure was recently displayed in a bikini pictorial on the telly. A controversy note, however: The image of Hada Mae's body has been enhanced by her weight loss, but her face hasn't. She looks older and less fresh and sassy than she used to, and that's a pity because she's still too young to look that mature.

Here's an example of how a news program's field reporter should not appear on television. The lady reporter wore a lot of powdery coatings, eyeshadow, mothers' and looked all-chilled up as she interviewed a policeman, and there were utterances, almost within. Shouldn't field reporters make it a point to dress down instead of up?

Finally, a note on the Little Miss Philippines bubble personality and talent pageant that's currently been ordered on "Eat Bulaga!" We like the fact that the youngsters aren't being overdressed to look like princesses, and that their make-up is light.

The mistake that natural bubble shines, unlike other talent searches on TV that make their child contestants look like little Jaspersons.

The day we watched the Little Mr. Philippines auditions, there was a pretty contestant and another girl who didn't look as good, but was a great, entertaining talker. We hoped that s/he would be declared, but no, the pretty girl won.

We wish that the people behind the tilt can think out of the "pretty" box and give more points to good talkers. They insist that easy to find these days, and they could enjoy more prosperous and longer-running shows for viewers. Think Asia Jingerwal.

Speaking of Asia, it looks like she'll be coming on strong in her latest telenovela, "Sa...dulo" (co-starring Judy Ann Santos), where she sets up a colorful drama as a tri-sided romance.

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'Matira Matibay'

A COMPILATION of Pandora at Dalgot's best-loved singles called "Matira Matibay, 93 13" (Dreyfus's Greatest 2000s 2007)" has been released by Universal Records in three formats—CD, VCD and DVD.

All three formats contain 18 songs—"Bakya," "Matirahin Ka Sana," "Ulitawo," "Ravena," "Pinha Pie," "Balaja," "Tinatawo Ho," "Swimming Bools," "Sayo Ito," "Mr. Suave," "The Yes Yes Show," "Bring Joss," "Tibibirin," "Text Day Rank," "Pare Ko Te," "Bigtalun," "Pepe Cologne," "Ito Cinderalan" and "Ghana."

The DVD edition of "Matira Matibay" contains the exclusive "Bigtalun" music video never seen on TV.

'Flags': Two Jims'

CLINT Eastwood's epic World War II drama, "Flags of Our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima" are now on DVD—in special editions that include special features like "The Making of an Epic," an intimate look at the film's creation; "The Brave Men," on the film's soldier coverage stories; "Raising the Flag," on how the production recreated the historic flag-raising on Iwo Jima; and "Looking at the Past," on the battle and bond one using historical footage and interviews.

'Boy Girl Thing'

THE MOVIE "It's A Boy Girl Thing" is about mid-teen neighbors who live worlds apart.

Nell Bridesmith (Samantha Armstrong) and Woody Dreamer (Steven Zegers) are sworn enemies who cross up one morning in very strange places, marooned cloudy.

The romantic comedy is now available on DVD from PDT Love/VCD for P275.

NOW ON DISC

'Saw III'

THE TOP SCREENING: Idiot rams an abandoned warehouse on the edge of town that a gruesome torture chamber in the third in a multiple-film horror series.

With his new apprentice Amanda (Shawnee Smith), the puppet master behind the cruel games that have terrified the community and baffled the police for two years—eluded capture. Baher Soueidi and Jigsaw filmfather, who are

'Giant of the Skies,' old movie and 'Oprah'

DISCOVERY CHANNEL "GIANT OF THE SKIES" follows the Airbus A380, the world's largest passenger plane, from conception, construction, its 27-day test flight in December 2006 and the final years in a first year service starting today until June 29 at 11 a.m.

The first episode follows the people behind the race to build the enormous wings, fuselages and other essential parts for the airplane.

Some great features in the UK, Germany, France and Spain, each gigantic component must make a journey over thousands of miles, traveling by road, river and sea to the Final Assembly Line in Toulouse.

Oprah episodes

"Oprah Primetime Specials," showing every Tuesday, 9 p.m. on Hallmark Channel, pathers the brightest stars in an hour of conversation with the Queen of Talk.

On July 1, the cast of the comedy "Wild Hogs"—John Travolta, Tim Allen, Martin Lawrence and William H. Macy—discuss the film project and give viewers a sneak peek on their latest feats in their personal lives.

On July 8, scientist Ishmael Glen Beverly talks about the spiritual journey that convinced her to face the ghosts from her past while rocker Sheryl Crow shares how she overcame her called-off engagement to cyclist Lance Armstrong and her battle against cancer.

Madonna tells her side on the adoption controversy and Elizabeth Smart speaks out on the life after the boycotts and death threats caused by a book-political romance on July 15.

Period film

"Miss in the Movie," a heartwarming coming-of-age film set in the 1950s, stars Rowan Pfitzenmeyer as a 14-year-old girl who gets her first difficult lesson in love.

Also starring Bentley Mitchum, Jessie Lively, Dennis Leary, Jane Pfitzenmeyer, Tess Harper and Gail Strickland, the Robert Hallgren Film is MGM Channel's July 2 feature at 9 p.m.

Home cooking

From July 5, 8 to 8:30 p.m., kitchen splendors of the brand new series "Jamie at Home" will air every Thursday on Discovery Travel & Living. Episodes receive the following Monday at 10 p.m.

Each episode features Jamie Oliver cooking with one primary ingredient. It could be a look at all the different varieties of tomatoes, what one can do with potatoes, or how to cook different cuts of lamb.

JAMIE OLIVER

SHERYL Crow guests on "Oprah"

NATIONAL Geographic's "In The Womb"

Three of a kind

In National Geographic Channel's "In the Womb: Twins, Triplets, and Quads," ground-breaking technology takes viewers into the world of extraordinary sets of beings as they develop inside the womb.

The special follows the stories of three expectant mothers from conception to birth and reveals inside the womb to see the tiny fetuses begin to interact with each other—cooking, kicking and even what looks like playing rock paper scissors.

The episode premieres today at 1 a.m., June 28 at 9 p.m. and June 29 at 1 a.m., only on the National Geographic Channel.